





Pauls.
 Giles's.
 Lawrence's.
 Georges of Colgate.
 Saviours.
 Margarets,

31. S.^t Michaels of Coslary.
 32. S.^t Swithin's.
 33. S.^t Benedicts.
 34. S.^t Mary's.
 35. S.^t Martins at y^e Oak.
 36. S.^t Augustines.

Ja. 1 THE *Admission:*
HISTORY
OF THE
CITY and COUNTY
OF
NORWICH.

FROM THE
EARLIEST ACCOUNTS
TO
THE PRESENT TIME.



NORWICH:
PRINTED BY JOHN CROUSE,
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M.DCC.LXVIII.



TO THE
RIGHT WORSHIPFUL
THOMAS STARLING, Esq; Mayor,

THE
SHERIFFS,

THE
ALDERMEN,
AND
COMMON-COUNCIL

OF THE
CITY of NORWICH,

THIS WORK
IS MOST HUMBLY INSCRIBED,

BY
THEIR MOST DEVOTED
AND
OBEDIENT HUMBLE SERVANT,

The EDITOR.



TO THE
RIGHT WORSHIPFUL
THOMAS STARRING, Esq; Mayor,

THE
SHERIFFS

THE
ALDERMEN
AND
COMMON-COUNCIL

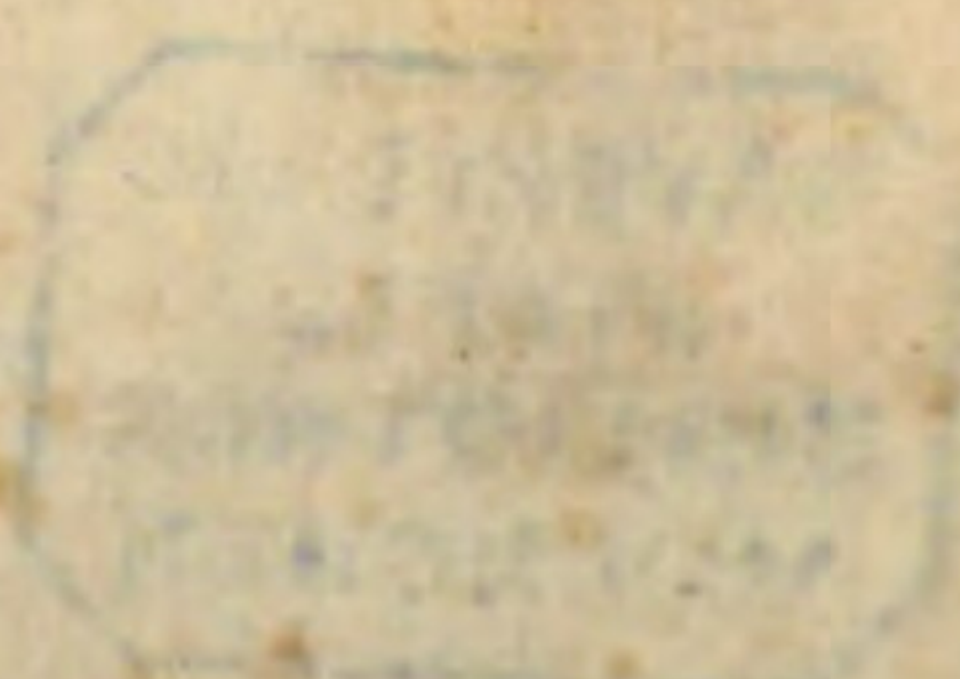
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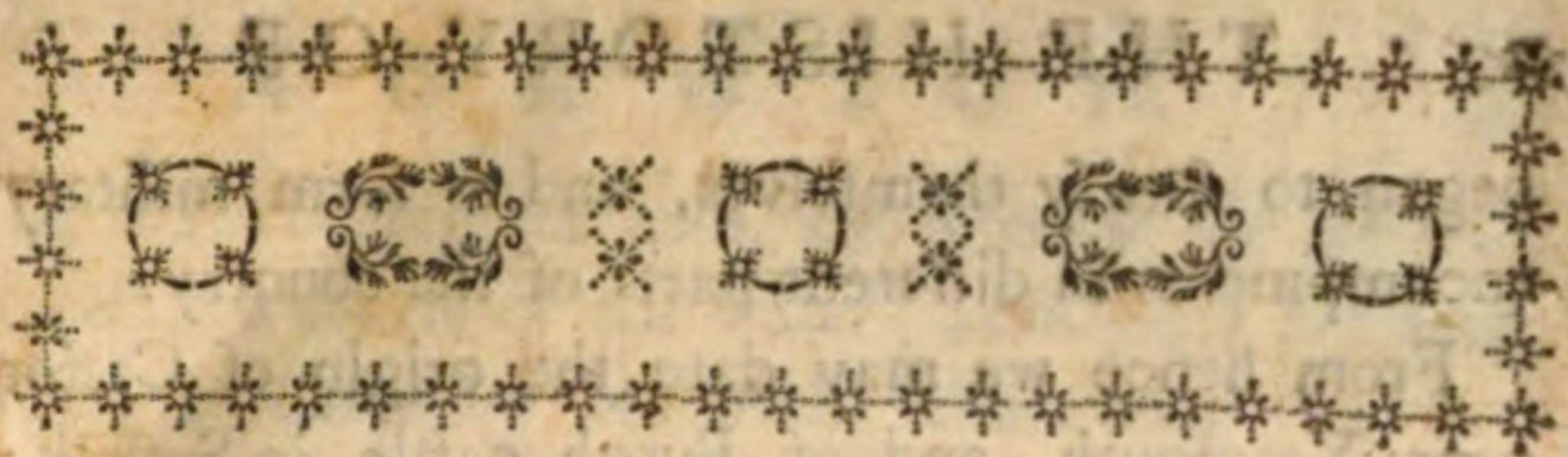
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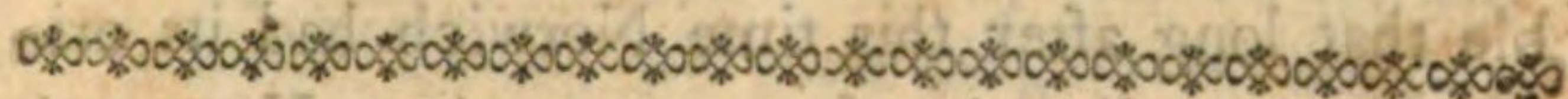
AND
GRATEFUL HUMBLE SERVANT,

The Printer.





THE
HISTORY
OF
NORWICH.



THE emperor Claudius Cæsar was the first Roman who gained any considerable footing in this part of Great Britain; which he entered about the forty-sixth year of the Christian æra, and the fourth of his reign. Having subdued the inhabitants, and settled the future government, he appointed Ostorius his lieutenant; who, upon some discontent shewn by the natives, took occasion to disarm all those of whom he entertained the least suspicion. The consequence of this was an insurrection, which was soon quelled by the Romans; who, in order to guard against future attempts of the same kind,
B began

2 THE HISTORY OF

began to fortify themselves, and to form military encampments in different parts of the country.

From hence we may date the origin of Caſtor near Yarmouth, and of Burgh caſtle in Suffolk: for, at that time, the mouth of the Yare extended in breadth from the iſland of Lothingland (in which Burgh caſtle is placed) to Caſtor in Flegg, where the oppoſite camp was formed: the ſpot where Yarmouth now ſtands being ſea; a large arm of which extended all over the marſhes to the place where Norwich is ſituated, and much higher that way; as it did alſo to Caſtor by Norwich, and up thoſe flats as far at leaſt as Taſe-boro, where the Romans afterwards raiſed a fortification to guard that ſtream. It is moſt probable that long after this time Norwich had its original, much in the ſame manner as Yarmouth before had, by fiſhermen and merchants ſettling there on account of traffic. It is plain that it was a fiſhing town in Canute's time; for in his reign Alfric, the biſhop, gave to the abbey of Bury his hagh by Norwich, which paid yearly to that abbey a laſt of herrings. St. Lawrence's church was afterwards built on part of it. The account therefore of the Danes coming with their ſhips to the caſtle here was a fact; an arm of the ſea reaching hither 'till the Conqueror's time; when the ſands at the mouth of the river where Yarmouth ſtands increaſing, by degrees became firm ground; and in proceſs of time, the marſhes, rivers, &c. ſettled in the manner they now are.

are. This being the case, the Romans we see followed the course of the water; as is plain by their camp at Caistor by Norwich, where they certainly had a station fixed: and if that was not the Venta Icenorum, as has been generally supposed, it was doubtless the most considerable fortification and station in these parts; and purposely made to guard that river, which winds southward into the country, as well as to be a commodious and pleasant situation in the interior part of the land, which they by degrees penetrated into; fixing camps to secure what they had got as they advanced forward. Thus pursuing their course more southerly, Taseboro was pitched upon as a proper place to guard that stream anciently called Tese, and the station ad Taum; and advancing further into land by the northern river, beyond where Norwich now stands, they proceeded as far as the stream continued any thing considerable to Elmham; which seems most probably to have been the Venta Icenorum, as it every way answers the Itinerary as well as Caistor, with respect to distance: its road too is more direct, and its situation near the centre of the county: besides, the many Roman coins and urns which have been dug up here clearly prove that it was a place of principal note under the Romans, if not a city with a general burying place. Indeed here do not seem to have been any considerable fortifications; but as the city was populous, and every way defended by stations and camps, extending from thence to the sea, they might

4 THE HISTORY OF

not think them necessary. But what most strongly favours this opinion, is the name of the river on which this place and Norwich stand. It was formerly called Wentsum, or Wenfum, and lately Wenfar, which means the way or passage to Venta, the name of the city. Mr. Cambden and others are mistaken when they place Taseboro and Castor upon the Wenfum, for they are plainly upon the Tese, as the name Taseboro, or ad Taum, evidently prove; and make Norwich, Attlebridge, &c. to stand on the Yare, which all records agree to be situated on the Wenfum, which takes its name from Venta; and if so, Elmham alone is the place that can claim that appellation. The river which divides at Trowse was never called Wenfum; for in the Norwich evidences mention is often made of the water from Trowse-bridge leading to the river Wenfum; so could be no part of that river. In fact, the river running through Norwich retains the name of Wenfum 'till it meets the Waveney; and they being joined become the Yare.

Norwich took its rise from the time of the Roman forces quitting this island, about the year 418, on account of the distracted state of the empire; when the camp or station at Castor being in a good measure deserted, the few remaining Romans joined with the natives, and became one people: and the situation of Norwich being thought preferable to that of Castor, many of them retired thither for the better convenience of fishing, and the easier communication with the country, even as far as
 Venta;

Venta: which place, though almost deserted, yet kept up some reputation, 'till the water retiring cut off all commerce with it that way, and reduced it almost to nothing. Thus the new formed city of Norwich laid the foundation of its present trade and opulence in the ruins of the ancient Venta and Caistor.

After the desertion of the Romans, the Saxons made themselves masters of the country, and to them is chiefly owing the further progress of this city, as well as its present name; North-wic signifying a northern situation on a winding river: and because they usually placed castles at such situations, the word wic was used for a castle: Norwich therefore may signify the northern castle at the winding of the river; it being situated north of the ancient station at Caistor.

The Saxons divided their conquests into seven kingdoms, each king erecting castles and fortifications for his own defence: Norwich castle was most likely built in the time of Uffa, the first king of the East Angles*, soon after the year 575. About 642 it became a royal castle, and one of the seats of Anna, king of the East Angles; whose daughter Ethelfred, on her marriage with Tombert, a nobleman or prince of the Girvii (the people inhabiting the fenny parts of Norfolk, Cambridge,

* The kingdom of the East Angles contained Norfolk, Suffolk, and part of Cambridgeshire; the inhabitants were cal-

led by the Romans Iceni; and afterwards Uffkines, from their king Uffa.

6 THE HISTORY OF

bridge, and Lincolnshire) had this castle, with the lands belonging to it, given her by her father. About 677 this Tombert and his wife granted to the monastery of Ely, which they had founded, certain lands held of Norwich castle, by castle guard; to which service they must have been liable before the grant: for by the laws of the Saxons, lands granted to the church were not liable to secular service, unless they were at first subject thereto whilst in the hands of secular men: which proves that this was a royal castle, and had demesnes and large possessions in king Anna's time. In the Danish wars it was often taken and retaken. But after Alfred had subdued the Danes, and erected strong castles and forts of brick and stone, among others he improved the fortifications of this castle: that he was here, and that this was a royal castle and a place of note is evident from a coin struck in this city about 872, having this inscription round the head ÆLFRED REX, and a monogram or cypher NORÐWIL on the reverse. Alfred making peace with the Danish king Gutrum, assigned him the country of the East Angles, and gave him this castle for a royal seat: but Gutrum, contrary to his promise, joining some Danes who had lately landed, was dispossessed of it. On the death of Alfred in 901, Edward the elder succeeded to the throne, who kept the Danes in subjection; Ericke, their king, holding these provinces of him peaceably 'till 913, when he rebelled: and being overthrown and slain by king Edward, his

domi-

dominions were added to the Saxon monarchy. Æthelstan, his son, totally expelled the Danes, and reduced the whole kingdom under his government. In his time the city flourished greatly : and it is probable that he was here in or near the year 925, a coin of his struck at that time being still extant ; round the head is ÆTHELSTAN, on the reverse is a cross in the midst, and round it BARBE MONETARIUS DE NORÐWIL, i. e. Barbe, mint-master of Northwic : there was also a coin struck here of Edmund, his brother and successor, with his name round his head EDMUND REX, on the reverse EADGAR MONETARIUS DE NORÐWIL. i. e. Edgar, mint-master of Northwic. In his reign and in that of his successor Edred, or Eldred, the city increased in wealth and extent, as is evident from the money made use of by the last named prince about 946, with this inscription EADRED REX, and HAUNE MONETARIUS DE NORÐWIL. i. e. Haune, mint-master of Northwic.

Mr. Watts supposes that about this time the city began to be governed by a serjeant, named by the king to hold courts, &c. but this is certainly a mistake, the city entirely belonging to the king, and the earl who governed under the king ; who had a third part of the profits annexed to the earldom for the support of his government. There are two coins extant of Edward the martyr, struck about 973 ; these have round the head EDWARD REX, and on the reverse LE-
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OFWINE

OFWINE MONETARIUS DE NORDWIL.

i. e. Leofwine, mint-master of Northwic; there were likewise three coins of Ethelred struck here. In his reign the Danes began to make commotions, and had so far the better of the king's forces that he was obliged to let them enjoy these parts undisturbed; this encouraged them to send over for more troops, with which they so terribly harrassed the English, that in 991, to induce them to quit the kingdom, they agreed to pay them ten thousand pounds yearly; this sum was levied by the name of Dane-geld, signifying in the Saxon language a tribute or tax: but notwithstanding this agreement, they still continued their incursions, 'till by degrees they had raised this tax to forty thousand pounds; which reduced the English so far, that they became little better than servants to those Danes who remained here: the natives were now obliged to till the ground, whilst their haughty masters devour'd the produce, and from their tyrannical behaviour gained the appellation of Lord Danes; whence afterwards, by way of derision, came the word lurdan, signifying a lazy idle fellow. The kingdom being thus weakened, the king resolved to dispatch all the Danes at once: and this massacre was made on St. Brice's day, November 13, 1002.

Swain, the Dane, determining to revenge this dreadful carnage, the very next year raised Exeter to the ground, and committed many other outrages. On the king's approach he retired; but being reinforced, he sailed with his whole fleet directly up
to

to Northwic, and entirely burnt and wasted the city; from this time therefore we must date the origin of the present city, the old one being then entirely demolished. The Danes proceeded thence to Thetford, which place they also burnt and destroyed: on their return to their ships they were met by Ulfketel, earl of the East Angles, when a terrible engagement ensued; in which many of the East Anglian nobles were slain. They hereupon betook themselves to their ships, leaving Norwich quite desolate: in which state it continued 'till 1010, when they returned again and settled here. In 1011 they entirely subdued the East Angles; when, 'tis most probable, they refortified this castle; the works or fortifications of which are plainly Danish, as is evident from their rotundity, exactly corresponding with their castle, camp or fortification at Thetford.

The next year Turkil, or Turketel, a Danish earl, took possession of all Norfolk, and held it under Swain 'till his death in 1014, who was succeeded by Cnute or Canute. The English at this time recovering their spirits, sent for Etheldred out of Normandy, whither he had retired; who soon drove out Canute, and forced him to go to Denmark for reinforcements: Turkil still continued governor of the East Angles by Etheldred's consent, who intrusted him with his fleet of forty ships; but the traitor proceeding with nine of them to Denmark, and advising Canute to return, he accordingly set sail with one hundred and sixty ships, and landed at Sandwich in 1016.

After many battles fought, the affair was at length decided by single combat between Canute and Edmund, surnam'd Ironside, the then English king, on a small island on the Severn called Alney: they fought first on horseback, afterward on foot, 'till Canute receiving a wound, desired to compromise the matter, which Edmund agreeing to, they divided the kingdom between them. Edmund being soon after murdered, Canute became sole monarch of England, and in 1017 assigned all Norfolk to Turkil, together with the custody of the city of Norwich.

From the time of Swain's second invasion in 1010, this city in about fifty years increased prodigiously, owing to the number of Danes who settled here; as will appear from Edward the Confessor's survey, who bestowed this earldom on Harold, son of earl Godwin, afterwards king of England. Upon earl Godwin's rebellion it was seized by the king and given to Algar, son of Leofrick earl of Chester; after whose death it fell again to the king, and remained in his hands when he took the general survey of his land, afterwards called Domesday-book; that being the record which gave the dome or final judgment concerning the lands, taxes, and revenues of the whole kingdom: from thence we learn the state of the city in his time, which was exceedingly grand, if we consider the few years that had elapsed from its foundation: for in Domesday, page 13, we have the following account of it.

' In

' In Norwic, in the time of K. Edward, were
 ' 1320 burgesſes, of whom one was ſo much the
 ' king's vaſſal, that he might not depart or do ho-
 ' mage (to any other) without his licence. His
 ' name was Ediſtan; he poſſeſſed 18 acres of land, and
 ' 12 of meadow, and two churches in the burgh *,
 ' and a fixth part of a third; and to one of theſe
 ' churches there belonged one manſion in the burgh,
 ' and fix acres of meadow; theſe Roger Bigot holds
 ' by the king's gift. And of 1238 (of the ſaid
 ' burgesſes) the king and the earl had the ſoc, ſac,
 ' and cuſtom; and of 50 Stigand had the ſoc,
 ' ſac and patronage; and of 32 Harold had the ſoc,
 ' ſac and patronage, of whom one was ſo much his
 ' vaſſal, that he might not depart, nor do homage (to
 ' any other) without his licence; in the whole they
 ' had 80 acres of land, and 20 acres and an half of
 ' meadow. There was alſo a woman, ſiſter of Sti-
 ' gand, who had 32 acres of land; and among them
 ' all they had the half of (one) mill, and the 4th
 ' part of another, and ſtill have. And beſides, they
 ' had 12 acres and an half of meadow, which Wihe-
 ' noc took away from them, but now Rainold, the
 ' ſon of Ivo, hath them. And there are two acres
 ' of meadow which did belong to the church of All
 ' Saints; theſe Wihenoc took away alſo; but the
 ' ſaid Rainold hath them. There is alſo in the bo-
 ' rough a certain church of St. Martin, which Sti-
 ' gand held in the time of king Edward, with 12
 C 2 ' acres

* Burgus and civitas were burg or burgh in Saxon ſigni-
 then of the ſame ſignification; ſying a city.

' acres of land; and now William de Noiers hath
 ' it, as of the fee of Stigand. Stigand held also
 ' one church, dedicated to St. Michael, to which
 ' there belong 112 acres of land, and fix of mea-
 ' dow, and (these were accounted for) one carucate*;
 ' this William the bishop holds, but not (in right)
 ' of his bishoprick. And the burgeffes held 15
 ' churches; to which there belonged in alms† 181
 ' acres of land and meadow. And 12 burgeffes held
 ' the church of the Holy Trinity‡, in the time of
 ' K. Edward, and now the bishop hath it of the
 ' gift of K. William. The king and the earl had
 ' 180 acres of land. The abbot of St. Edmund
 ' had one house, and the mediety of the church of
 ' St. Lawrence. And this whole town then paid
 ' 20l. to the king, and 10l. to the earl; and be-
 ' sides this, 1l. 1s. 4d. for prebendaries§, and fix
 ' sextaries|| of honey, and one bear and fix bear
 ' dogs.—And Wicman held, in the time of K. Ed-
 ' ward,

* A carucate is as much land
 as one plough can till in a year;
 so called from caruca, a plough:
 'tis sometimes called a plough-
 land or hide: all ancient taxes
 were laid by hide or plough-land

† When no rents or services
 were reserved, but lands, &c.
 were given to churches, on no
 other condition than having
 prayers read, they were then
 said to be given in frank-al-
 moigne; i. e. free alms.

‡ This was the church of St.
 John at Maddermarket; its
 dedication being to the Holy
 Trinity and St. John.

§ Prebenda is frequently used
 for any sort of allowance,
 as to cattle, &c. and 'tis very
 likely that the payment was to-
 wards the maintenance of the
 kings horses.

|| A sextary commonly means
 with us a gallon.

' ward, one carucate and an half of land, and 16
' acres of pasture and seven acres of meadow, un-
' der Stigand; now Rainold, the son of Ivo, holds
' the same: they were reckoned then as one caru-
' cate, and now two, and were always worth 30s.
' And further, bishop Almar held the church of St.
' Simon and Jude, in the time of K. Edward, af-
' terwards (bishop) Erfast, and now (bishop) Wil-
' liam; to this belong three-fourths of a mill, and
' half an acre of meadow, and one mansion, and
' are not (part) of the bishoprick, but of the pa-
' trimony of bishop Almar: in the burgh he had
' two acres of meadow belonging to the bishoprick;
' and (the whole) is worth twenty shillings.'

The survey here distinguishes one thousand three hundred and twenty burghesses, according to the jurisdictions they belonged to, whereby (besides the new borough) it appears, there were in the city three divisions or manors, the whole of it belonging to three lords or owners. Of these burghesses one thousand two hundred and thirty eight dwelt in that part whereof the king and the earl had soc, sac and custom, i. e. the intire jurisdiction; for soc is the power that any one hath to hold courts, wherein all that dwell on his land, or in his jurisdiction, are answerable to do suit and service: sac is the right of having all the amerciaments and forfeitures of such suitors: and custom includes all other profits, as land-gable or tax, tolls, heriots and other customs, which differ'd according as they were used in different places: but
every

every where the division between the king and an earl, was two parts to the king, and a third to the earl in right of his earldom. In the second part dwelt fifty of these burgesſes, and they belonged to Stigand's court, who had their amer-ciaments, protection or patronage; i. e. to ſpeak after the old Roman manner, he was their patron and they his clients: but 'tis not ſaid he had the cuſtoms of theſe burgesſes, ſo that they probably belonged to the king and the earl; for the ſoc was ſometimes one perſon's, and the cuſtoms another's. This Stigand was biſhop of the dioceſe, and afterwards archbiſhop of Canterbury in king Edward's time; and the part of the city here referred to is St. Martin's Plain and Tombland, where St. Michael's formerly ſtood. The other 32 dwelt in that part which was the land of earl Harold, who had therefore juřiſdiction over them, received their amer-ciaments, and was their patron: he was the ſon of Godwin earl of Kent, and after the Confefſor's death king of England. From hence it appears, that at that time this city had twenty-five parochial churches at leaſt: and that it exceeded Lincoln, Ipſwich, Yarmouth, Cambridge, Canterbury, and the chief places of England, in the number of its burgesſes.

Such was the magnitude of Norwich 700 years ago, being then a hundred by itſelf, and containing 883 acres of land and meadow, with a ſheep's walk within its juřiſdiction; ſo that it ſeems to have extended then about a mile beyond the preſent walls. It continued daily increaſing till 1075, when William

liam the Conqueror gave the earldom, city and castle, to Ralph de Walet, Waker, or Guader, a Norfolk man ; who, during the king's absence in Normandy, married Emma, daughter of William Fitz-Osborn or Osbert, sister to Roger earl of Hereford, cousin to the Conqueror, and celebrated his nuptials with great pomp in this city : Waltheof, the great earl of Northumberland, Roger earl of Hereford, and many bishops, abbots, and barons being present at the solemnity. Earl Ralph, on his wedding day, persuaded his guests to join with him in rebellion against the absent king ; to which they all consented : but earl Waltheof reflecting on what he had done, went the next day to archbishop Lanfranc, who was guardian of the realm, and discovered the whole plot. The earls of Norfolk and Hereford betook themselves to arms, and endeavoured to join their forces, but were prevented. In the mean time Odo, bishop of Bajeux, and Jeffery, bishop of Constance, raised a large army, and forced earl Ralph to retire to Norwich ; when, not being joined by the inhabitants in such numbers as he expected, he fled into Brittany with the chief of his adherents, leaving his wife to defend the castle ; which she held out till famine oblig'd her to surrender it. The besieged had their lives granted them, on condition of their departing the kingdom, and promising not to return without the king's leave.

Thus the castle, city and earldom passed again into the Conqueror's hands, and became part of the royal demesnes. Great part of the city was burnt during this siege ; many of its inhabitants
who

who had joined the earl fled, and others were severely fined and taxed by the king: all the English who were present at earl Ralph's wedding were severely punished, some with loss of their eyes, others by banishment, and others by forfeiture of their whole substance. After this the king constituted Roger Bigot constable of the castle, and his bailiff; to collect and account with him, for all the rents arising from the borough of the castle, the city or the earldom.

In 1085 the king ordered an exact account to be taken of every hide of land, and the several owners thereof; and how much rent, cattle, &c. every one possessed: in short, the substance of every man in England, whether in land, cattle, or money, was returned; and from this record we have the exact state of the city in the year 1086, as followeth.

‘ The hundred of Norwich is the king's land.

‘ In Norwich, in the time of the Confessor, were
 ‘ 1320 burghesses, &c. Now Roger Bigot holds of
 ‘ the king's gift, Edstan the burghess, and his land,
 ‘ churches, &c. And Wihenoc had also 12 acres and
 ‘ a half taken from the burghesses, which now belong
 ‘ to Rainold, son of Ivo; St. Martin's church also,
 ‘ with 12 acres of land, which Stigand had in king
 ‘ Edward's time, belong now to William de Noiers,
 ‘ who owned part of the fee formerly of Stigand.
 ‘ St. Michael's church on Tombland is bishop Willi-
 ‘ am's, of his own inheritance; and the church of
 ‘ the Holy Trinity, or St. John's of Maddermarket,
 ‘ which belonged to 12 burghesses in the Confessor's
 ‘ time, is the bishop's also by the king's gift.

‘ Now

‘ Now at the time of the survey there were in the
 ‘ borough 1565 burgesſes, Engliſhmen, who pay cuſ-
 ‘ tom; and 480 bordars*, who, becauſe of their pover-
 ‘ ty, pay no cuſtom: and in that land which Stigand
 ‘ held in the time of K. Edward there now remain 39
 ‘ burgesſes, and in the ſame there are nine manſions
 ‘ void. And in that land, whereof Harold had the
 ‘ ſoc, there are 15 burgesſes, and 17 manſions void;
 ‘ all which are in the occupation, or fee, of the caſtle:
 ‘ and in the borough 190 manſions void, in that which
 ‘ was the ſoc of the king and the earl †; 81 of them
 ‘ in the occupation of the caſtle. In the borough are
 ‘ alſo 50 houſes, of which the king hath not his cuſ-
 ‘ tom ‡: of theſe Rainold, a man or tenant of Roger
 ‘ Bigot, hath two houſes and two manſions §; and
 ‘ Robert the baron two houſes; and the abbot (of St.
 ‘ Bennet) one houſe; and Rable two houſes and two
 ‘ manſions; and two manſions which two women hold;
 ‘ and Aſcolf, an Engliſhman, one houſe; and Teobald,
 ‘ a man or tenant of the abbot, one houſe; and Burg-
 ‘ hard one houſe; and Wala one houſe; and William,
 ‘ a tenant of Hervy the burgeſs, one houſe; and
 ‘ Meinard, the watchman, one houſe; and Mein,
 ‘ the burgeſs, one houſe; and Hervy, the invalid,
 D one

* Bordars, were labourers who held cottages or ſmall pieces of land, and thro’ poverty were unable to pay the cuſtoms: and this proves thoſe cuſtoms to have been pecuniary, and not ſervile; otherwiſe poverty could have been no excuſe for not diſcharg- ing them.

† That part of the city under the juriſdiction of the king and the earl, as being far the largeſt, was peculiarly called the *burgh*.

‡ Theſe were freeholds.

§ Void pieces of ground where formerly dwelling-houſes had ſtood.

' one house ; and Ralph, the arbalister ||, two houses
 ' and one mansion ; and Hereberd, the ditcher,
 ' three houses ; and Roger, the Pictavian, two hou-
 ' ses ; and Meinard, a tenant of the abbot of St.
 ' Bennet, one house ; and Peter, a man of the
 ' abbot of St. Edmund, one mansion ; and Everwin,
 ' a burgefs, one house ; and Baldewin one house ;
 ' and William one house : Englishman * one house ;
 ' and Gerard, the watchman, one house ; and Rod-
 ' bert, the lorimer †, one mansion ; and Hildebrand,
 ' the lorimer, one house ; and Godwin, a burgefs,
 ' one house ; and William, a man of Hernier, one
 ' house ; and Gislebert, the watchman, one house ;
 ' and Fulbert, a certain priest of Hermer, one
 ' house ; and Walter one house ; and Reinold, the
 ' fon of Ivo, one house ; and Richard de Sentber
 ' one house ; and Hugh, a man of William de Scoies
 ' (le Escois, or the Scot) one house ; and the tenants
 ' of the bishop ten houses ; and in the bishop's own
 ' court (or palace) fourteen mansions, which king
 ' William gave to Erfast, for the principal feat of
 ' the bishopric § ; and Gislebert, the arbalister, one
 ' house

|| These Arbalisters seem ra-
 ther to have been the makers
 of cross-bows, than archers ;
 for they were men of consider-
 able note, and reckoned in
 domesday-book among the great
 men of the county.

* Anglicus, hence the fur-
 name of English.

† The fadler or bridle-ma-
 ker.

§ This proves that Norwich
 was designed to be the bishop's
 see before the time of Herbert :
 but tho' the Conqueror gave the
 houses, &c. with that intent ; yet
 neither Arfast nor William had
 their usual residence in Nor-
 wich ; the reason of which
 seems to have been that Arfast
 had resolved upon fixing his see
 at

' house and two mansions; and William de Scoies
 ' one house; and Meinard one house; and the abbot
 ' of Ely one mansion. And the burgeffes held 43
 ' chapels in the borough. And this whole town pays
 ' 70l. by weight ||, to the king; and 100 shillings,
 ' by tale, as a free gift to the queen, and an am-
 ' bling palfrey; and 20l. blanch, or silver uncoin-
 ' ed, to the earl; and 20 shillings, by tale, as a
 ' free gift to Godric.---St. Simon and St. Jude's
 ' church was now held by bishop William, and
 ' Wicman's land was held by Reinold, the son of
 ' Ivo, &c. as in the Confessor's reign.---Of the
 ' burgeffes who dwelt in Norwich, 22 are gone
 ' away, and dwell in Beccles, a town of the abbot
 ' of St. Edmund; and fix dwell in Humilgar hun-
 ' dred, and have forsaken the burgh; and in King's
 ' Torp, or Thorp, one; and in the land of Roger
 ' Bigot one; and under William de Noiers one;
 ' and Richard de Senteler one. Those who fled,
 ' and those remaining, are quite impoverished, ei-
 ' ther by earl Ralph's forfeitures, by fire, by the
 ' king's tribute, or by Waleran.---In this borough
 ' the bishop may have one moneyer, or mint-master.
 ' Here was a certain decayed house, which Ralf,

D 2

' the

at the rich abbey at Bury; but
 neither he nor Herbert, who
 had the same intention, could
 carry their point; for the abbot
 and monks so strenuously op-
 posed it at the court of Rome,
 that they not only hindered
 their project taking effect; but
 also obtained a confirmation
 from the pope, of their total

exemption from episcopal jurif-
diction.

|| At this time, and long af-
 ter, a pound of good money by
 tale, was a pound in weight;
 every penny weighing what we
 now call a penny-weight;
 20 pence weighed an ounce,
 and 240 pence, or 12 ounces,
 a pound.

' the son of Walter, had of the king's gift; and
 ' Walter, the deacon, hath one house: and two
 ' men took away from St. Sepulchre's, or Berstreet
 ' church, two acres of meadow, which afterwards
 ' the priest had again, of the grant of the sheriff. Earl
 ' Ralph had 14 acres of land, and one acre and an
 ' half of meadow, which afterwards Alward de
 ' Niweton (or Newton) held. The land of the
 ' burgessees in the hundred of Humilait was always
 ' 80 acres, and there were 13 bordars, and 'tis
 ' reckoned at one carucate; and there are of meadow
 ' three acres; and the whole is valued at 13s. 4d.
 ' In the new burgh * there were 36 burgessees,
 ' Frenchmen, and six English, and by custom every
 ' one paid yearly 1d. besides forfeitures; of all
 ' which the king had two parts, and the earl the
 ' third. Now there are 41 French burgessees in the
 ' demesnes of the king and the earl; and Roger
 ' Bigot hath 50; and Ralph de Bellefago 14; and
 ' Hermer eight; and Robert the arbalister five; and
 ' Fulcher, a man of the abbot, one; and Isaac one;
 ' and Ralf Vice de Lieu one; and in the earl's
 ' bakehouse Robert Blund hath three; and Wimer
 ' hath one decayed mansion. All this land of the
 ' burgessees was in the demesnes of earl Ralph, and
 ' he granted it to the king to make a new borough
 ' be-

* This new borough was chiefly inhabited by Frenchmen, and contained the pleasantest part of the city, viz. the parishes of St. Giles and St. Peter of Mancroft. The two streets leading from the market-place to St. Giles's church, are called in old deeds Upper and Lower Newport: and port is an old word for a gate, and sometimes signifies a town.

‘ between himself and the king : and all these lands,
‘ as well of the knights, as of the burgesſes, pay to
‘ the king his cuſtom. There is alſo in the new
‘ borough a certain church, which earl Ralph built,
‘ and gave it to his chaplains ; now a certain prieſt
‘ of the ſheriff’s, named Wala, holds it † by the
‘ king’s gift, and ’tis worth 60 s. and ſo long as
‘ Robert Blund held the county, he had thence
‘ every year an ounce of gold.’

Upon the Conqueror’s death, Roger Bigot held the caſtle for Robert Curthoſe, duke of Normandy, elder brother of Rufus ; waſting the city and county, and ſpoiling all thoſe who refuſed to join with him. At length a peace was concluded between king William Rufus and his brother ; one article of which being, that the lands and inheritances of all ſuch as had aſſiſted Robert ſhould be reſtored, Roger Bigot remained in poſſeſſion of the caſtle, and held it peaceably during this king’s reign. The city now began to recover itſelf, which determined Herbert de Loſinga, then biſhop of Thetford, to remove the ſee hither ; after having made many unſucceſſful attempts to fix it at Bury. This tranſlation was in good meaſure effected by Roger Bigot ; it appearing from the king’s charters and grants to the biſhop, that they were given at Roger’s requeſt.---Thus was the ſee fixed here April 9, 1094 ; and in 1096 the firſt ſtone of the cathedral church was laid ; from which time the city has been daily increaſing in wealth, trade and buildings.

Henry

† This was St. Peter’s of Mancroft church.

Henry I. on his accession to the crown met with great opposition from many of the nobles, who were in the interest of his elder brother, Robert duke of Normandy; but Roger Bigot strongly espousing his cause, became a great favourite. In the first year of his reign, the king gave him Framlingham in Suffolk, and continued him constable of the castle until his death. He was succeeded in this government by his son William Bigot; on whose decease Hugh Bigot, his brother, who inherited his honour and estate, was appointed constable of the castle, and sole governor of the city; and so continued 'till 1122, in which year the king kept his Christmas at Norwich: when being pleased with the reception he met with, he granted the citizens a charter, containing the same franchises and liberties as the city of London then enjoyed. From this time the city was governed by a Provost, or Portreve, chosen by the king, part of whose office was to collect all the king's duties.

The government of the city was now, for the first time, severed from that of the castle; the constable of which had always heretofore been sole governor, and answered the king his two parts of the profits, reserving the third to himself; and the sheriff, who was then under him, was the officer that collected them. On this grant the king's two parts became the right of the citizens, who were now authorised to exercise all such jurisdiction as the king had ever done, in reference to those parts; and returned their fee-farm, or annual profits, by their provost

provost, who accounted yearly for them with the exchequer. This office was annual; but whether he was chosen on or without the citizens recommendation is not certain. It appears from the record called *Testa de Nevil*, that at this time felons were imprisoned in the castle; for it is therein said, that the lands of Bunde, son of Harvy Gamel, a resident in North Erpingham hundred, who was imprisoned at Norwich on account of his wife's death, and acquitted, were seized by the king; but were to be restored. No one can say exactly what were the liberties granted to, and exercised by the city in this king's reign, for want of copies of the records; but whatever they were, they enjoyed them peaceably to his death in 1135.

King Stephen granted the custody of the castle to his favourite Hugh Bigot, who was a principal instrument in advancing him to the crown; by coming directly from Normandy, where Henry I. died, and averring that he on his death-bed had disinherited his daughter Maud, the empress, and appointed Stephen, earl of Bologne, his heir. The citizens therefore, taking this opportunity, made what interest they could with the king to obtain a new charter, vesting the government of their city in coroners and bailiffs, in the room of provosts: but the affair took a contrary turn to what they expected: for the king, upon a distrust of Bigot's favouring the cause of the empress Maud, seized the castle, and all the liberties of the city, into his own hands; and soon after granted to his natural son William, for an appennage
or

or increafe of inheritance, the town and burgh of the city of Norwich, in which were 1238 burgesſes that held of the king in burgage-tenure; and alſo the caſtle and burgh thereof, in which were 123 burgesſes that held of the king in burgage; (the whole rent of the city, including the fee-farm, being then 700 l. per ann.) and alſo the royal revenue of the whole county of Norfolk; excepting what then belonged to the biſhopric, religious houſes, and other earls; and particularly excepting the third penny of the cuſtoms, the property of Hugh Bigot as earl. So that to ſatisfy Hugh, we find that the king had made him earl of Norfolk, and granted the third part of the profits of the county to him in inheritance; and the two parts which belonged to the crown he aſſigned to his ſon William and his heirs. In the mean time the citizens ſued earneſtly to the king for a regrant of their liberties, which they at laſt obtained; but were put under the government of a provost as formerly. And in 1139 the citizens paid into the hands of the ſheriff 25 l. as a compoſition aid to the king, for this their pardon, and the reſtoration of their liberties.

Hugh Bigot being diſpleaſed at his loſing the caſtle, and not thinking his earldom a ſufficient recompence, in 1140 openly declared for Maud the empreſs. Upon theſe commotions the liberties of Norwich were again ſeized; but Bigot returning to his allegiance, the citizens were reſtored to them all again at his interceſſion, and had a new charter granted them; but without any alteration or enlargement of privileges. In

About this time, upon Good-Friday, the Jews crucified a child here of twelve years of age, named William: and in several kalendars the day of his passion, which was the 24th of March, is marked as an holiday. The matter was discovered by one Eilward, a burges, as they were going to bury the body in Thorp wood: upon which the Jews immediately applied to the sheriff, and promised him an hundred marks if he would free them from this difficulty; who sending for Eilward, obliged him to swear, that so long as he or the sheriff lived, he never would accuse the Jews, or discover the fact. About five years after, Eilward on his death-bed made known the whole affair; and the body being found in the wood, was taken and buried in the church-yard of the monks. Many miracles were there wrought by it, which occasioned its being removed into the church, and enshrined, in the year 1150. In a short time it became so famous, that Thomas, a monk of Monmouth, being appointed by his abbot to write history, pitched upon this story as happening in his own time; and accordingly wrote seven books about William the boy and martyr; and one concerning the miracles wrought by him: all which he dedicated to William Turb, bishop of Norwich. Many of the Jews for this fact forfeited all their fortunes, though but few of them were executed; as they perfectly well understood how to purchase their peace of the king.

About the year 1150, the king sent William Martel, his sewer or steward, to Norwich, as his
E deputy;

deputy; who summoned the chief persons of the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk to meet him in council in the bishop's garden: the said William sitting as judge, assisted by William Turb, bishop of Norwich; Nigel, bishop of Ely; Ording, abbot of St. Edmund; Daniel, abbot of Holm; with most of the barons of the two counties, viz. Walter Fitz-Robert; Robert de Vere, the king's constable; Reginald de Warren; Folk De Olly; Hugh, son of Eudo; William de Chetney, son of Robert; Henry de Rye, and others. At this assembly, sir Robert Fitz Gilbert and sir Adam de Hornyngesheth were charged with conspiring, together with Ralph de Alsted and Roger his brother, to seize the king; and either to deliver him up to his enemies or to murder him: hereupon the abbot of St. Edmund claimed these two knights as his; declaring they were men of the blessed martyr St. Edmund, and therefore could not be made to answer in this place, or any where else, but in the court of St. Edmund at Bury: for the truth of which he appealed to all the bishops, abbots, barons, knights, and gentlemen there present; and therefore demanded respite of judgment, 'till he could have a conference with the king. This being granted, the abbot, with his barons, monks and friends, on application to the king were told, that all justice originally belonged to the county and court there; they must, therefore, return back again to the county and council from whence they came; and whatever they did, as to allowing the liberties or not, the king would abide by. On producing their charters and liberties, in
confe-

consequence hereof, to the shire mote of the county, or county court, sir Henry de Glanvil observed, that he had constantly attended that court above 50 years, and assured them, that he remembered a question of the like nature to have arisen in the county-court, in the time of Henry I. concerning the liberties of St. Edmund, and the eight hundreds and an half; when it was allowed by the court, that all pleas, suits, and actions whatsoever, concerning any person in the liberties of St. Edmund, except the pleas of murder or treasure found, belonged to the court of St. Edmund, and were to be tried by the abbot, his steward, or other officer appointed by him. Upon this, the bishops and barons then present returned the liberties as good, and delivered their testimonies thereof to William Martel, the king's steward; which being notified to the king, he immediately confirmed the presentment; and ordered the abbot to appoint a day, that he might have justice done him in his court. Soon after the king went to Bury, where, by the mediation of the barons of the church, and those of the king, he pardoned the two knights; and thus the matter ended.---It is here worth observing, how speedily and well justice was administered even in those troublesome times; and how great was the authority of the shire-motes, county, and hundred courts, which were the original fountains of all justice: for in these the principal persons of the county, both spiritual and temporal, sat to do justice; and the sheriff, as judge, representing the king, pronounced the sentence the court gave.

Henry II. A. D. 1155, and the first year of his reign, took this city, castle, and liberties, from William, the natural son of king Stephen; but, as a recompence, restored to him all those lands which his father held in the reign of Henry I. He prevailed likewise with Hugh Bigot to yield up all his castles, whereby the whole right became vested in the crown; the king governing the city by the sheriff, who paid the profits and aids arising therefrom into the exchequer: and this year William de Nova Villa, or Nevil, sheriff of Norfolk, paid 50 marks for the aid due from the city. In 1158 the city gave the king 414l. 13s. and 4d. for the second scutage of Wales; and in 1160 the sheriff accounted for 200l. for the tallage of the city for that year.

About the year 1163, Hugh Bigot was restored to the dignity and title of earl of Norfolk, and at the same time appointed constable of the castle of Norwich: by which means he became sole governor of the city, as being then in the king's hands; and the sheriff from that time acted wholly under his authority.

On the 26th of January, 1165, an earthquake was felt here, and all over Norfolk, Suffolk, and Cambridgeshire; the shock of which was so great, that the bells rang in the steeples, and many people were thrown down. The same year William de Norwich certified into the exchequer, that he held a whole knight's fee of old feoffment in Suffolk, of Nigel bishop of Ely; for which he now paid

paid one mark to the fifth scutage; being the aid for marrying Maud, the king's eldest daughter, to Henry duke of Saxony: which shews that this ancient family, which deriv'd its surname from this city, was of good repute and estate in the time of Henry I.

In 1167 the burgessees of Norwich paid 200l. towards the aid, or portion, for marrying the king's daughter; and the mint-masters paid ten marks.

On the rebellion of prince Henry against his father; Roger Mowbray, Hugh Bigot, and others, who joined him, got under his seal charters, confirmations, &c. of lands and revenues, as a recompence for their services: particularly Bigot got this castle, city, honour of Eye, &c. confirmed to him and his heirs. This business was transacted at Paris in 1174; and upon the conclusion of it, they immediately commenced hostilities against the old king.

In the course of these troubles the earl of Flanders sent over Ralf de la Haye, with 318 knights, or men of arms; who, joining earl Hugh, marched directly to Norwich. The earl reached the city the 18th of June, and, on his being refused admittance, immediately assaulted and took it. Being highly provoked at the resistance he met with, he plundered the town, and burnt great part of it; took all the principal inhabitants prisoners, and fined them heavily for their ransom: then entering the castle, he fortified it in the best manner he could, and received into it as large a garrison of French and Flemings, as it was capable of containing.

King

King Henry having defeated the king of Scots, marched directly against Bigot; and took his castle of Walton in Suffolk, which he demolished entirely. He then advanced towards those of Framlingham and Bungay, which were garrisoned with no more than 500 soldiers: Bigot now despairing of any further supply, was obliged to compound matters with the king, at the expence of 1000 marks, and the surrendering up all his castles: the king, on his part, granting leave to all the Flemings of Bigot's party at Norwich or elsewhere, as well as to the soldiers that came with Ralf de la Haye, to return into their own country, upon taking an oath never to enter England again in an hostile manner. This agreement was made the 25th of July; and immediately after the king ordered the castle of Bungay to be razed; and took this castle, city, and all that belonged to them, into his own hands.--- Earl Hugh soon after went into the Holy Land, and there died.

The king, to make the citizens some amends for the damages they had sustained in opposing earl Hugh, taxed them in the year 1175 only 16l. in lieu of the whole profits of their city. From this time the city began to recover itself, through the king's clemency; the whole continuing in his hands 'till 1182, when the citizens petitioned to have their liberties restored; which was granted them, on payment of a fine of 80 marks. The original charter, now extant among the evidences in the Guild-hall, is very fair and clean; part of the seal

seal still remaining. The translation of it is as follows.

‘ Henry king of England, and duke of Normandy
 ‘ and Aquitain, and earl of Anjou; to all archbishops,
 ‘ bishops, abbots, earls, barons, justices, sheriffs,
 ‘ officers, and other his faithful subjects, both French
 ‘ and English, greeting. Know ye, that I have gi-
 ‘ ven, and by this present charter confirmed to my
 ‘ burghesses of Norwich, all customs, and liberties, and
 ‘ acquittances*, which they had in the time of K.
 ‘ Henry my grandfather; as fully, honourably and
 ‘ quietly, as they had them fully, honourably and
 ‘ quietly, in the time of K. Henry my grandfather:
 ‘ wherefore I will, and firmly command, that they
 ‘ have them all, fully and honourably, as they then
 ‘ had them; as well their own customs, as those they
 ‘ are (or may be) answerable for in my time, or
 ‘ in the time of my heirs; and if any one after the
 ‘ death of Henry, my grandfather, in the reign of
 ‘ K. Stephen, hath withdrawn himself from their
 ‘ customs and scots†, I command that he return to
 ‘ their society and custom, and pay the same scot
 ‘ as they do, because I hold none of them exempt
 ‘ therefrom. Witnesses, William, the king’s bro-
 ‘ ther; Henry of Essex, the constable; Richard de
 ‘ Humes, the constable; Manasses Bisset, steward;
 ‘ Wareyne Fitz-Gerold, the chamberlain. At
 ‘ Westminster.

The

* That is, the power of grant-
 ing acquittances in the king’s
 name, for all tolls, &c. due
 and payable to the city.

† Scot is a portion, or shot as

we now term it: Scot and Lot
 therefore signify an allotted or
 certain portion; or customary
 payment of any dues what-
 ever.

The citizens having thus regained their liberties, were very exact in the support of them: indeed in 1184 they carried the matter too far; for some of them being warn'd to serve on juries, either at the views of frank-pledge, or court-letes, belonging to the king's castle, or at the letes belonging to others within the city, refused serving; and pretended an exemption therefrom by their charter. The affair being tried, the citizens were cast, and fined nine marks to the king; and commanded to serve for the future in that lete, or view, wherein they dwelt.

At the coronation of king Richard I. September 3, 1189, a riot happened on a Jew's attempting to enter Westminster-hall, contrary to the king's express command; in which many of that people were killed, and their houses plundered and burnt. A rumour was thereupon immediately spread throughout the nation, that the king did not favour them; upon which the people of Bury, Lynn, and Norwich, took occasion to rise, and robbed and spoiled great numbers of them.

On the 27th of November following, Roger, son of Hugh Bigot, was created earl of Norfolk, and steward of the king's household. By his means the citizens soon after obtained as ample a charter as the city of London then had: for in 1193, in consideration of 200 marks to be paid into the exchequer, by the citizens of Norwich, the year following, the king granted the city in fee-farm to them and their heirs; paying into the exchequer, a fee-farm

farm rent of 180*l.* a year; out of which they had an annual discount of 25*s.* for lands and meadows in the suburbs, which king Stephen had granted to his nuns at Carrowe: and this fee-farm exceeded all profits that the king ever received from the city, by more than 40*l.* a year. The tenor of the charter here follows: the original, in the Guild-hall, is very fair, and hath a perfect broad seal of red wax, of this king's, appendant to it.

‘ Richard, by the grace of God, king of Eng-
 ‘ land, duke of Normandy and Aquitain, and earl
 ‘ of Anjou, &c. greeting. Know ye, that we have
 ‘ granted to our citizens of Norwich, that none of
 ‘ them shall be forced to answer to any plea out of
 ‘ Norwich †, unless to those concerning foreign te-
 ‘ nures; except the mint-masters, and our own of-
 ‘ ficers. We have also granted them acquittances
 ‘ of murder §; and gavelet ||, within their city;
 ‘ and that none of them shall be forced to duel *;
 F and

† No citizen should be oblig'd to answer or plead to any action for any lands, &c. which he held in the city; or to any personal action arising or acknowledged in the city; but in the city courts only: but such citizens as owned any lands, &c. out of the liberties of the city, should answer as to them, in the county or place, wherein they were situated.

§ Power of electing a coroner, whose duty it is, to enquire, on the part of the king, how any vi-

olent death was occasioned, and for that purpose to empanel a jury of 12 men; and to seize and retain all forfeitures thence arising.

|| Gawita, or gavelet, is a power of summoning into their hutting all such as refuse to pay the rents, &c. due to the city.

* Formerly, contests at law were determined by duel or combat, had between the accuser and accused, or plaintiff and defendant: but this being a very uncertain way of coming at the

‘ and that they may try all pleas of the crown †
 ‘ amongst themselves, according to the custom of
 ‘ the city of London; and that no stranger shall
 ‘ be lodged or received into the city, or take any
 ‘ thing by force ‡. We have also granted to them,
 ‘ that all the citizens of Norwich shall be free from
 ‘ toll, and lastage §, throughout all England; and
 ‘ in all the sea-ports; and that no one of them shall
 ‘ be condemned or amerced in any sum of money,
 ‘ unless it be according to the law that our citizens
 ‘ of London have; and that also in that city there
 ‘ shall be no plea of miskenning ||; and that they
 ‘ shall hold their husting but once in a week *; and
 ‘ that they shall justly have their lands, and tenures,
 ‘ and their securities, and all their debts that any
 ‘ one shall owe them: and as to their lands and te-
 ‘ nures, which are within the city, the writ of right
 ‘ shall be tried by them, according to the custom of
 ‘ the

truth, the strongest most commonly prevailing; it was deemed a great privilege to be exempt from this precarious judgment of the Law.

† All such pleas, or actions, as in other places belonged to the crown: as they did here, before the first charter was granted.

‡ No stranger shall be suffered to settle in the city, without entering himself into their society; and no purveyor of the king's shall enter the city, and

forcibly take any thing for the king's use, as they did in other places.

§ A custom paid at markets, fairs, and sea-ports, for things bought and sold there; or for any goods carried thither.

|| Or changing a plea.

* The principal, and ancient court of pleas, held before the mayor and court of aldermen: so called from hus, a house, and wing, a cause or trial.

[the city ; and as to all their debts, which shall be
 ' contracted in Norwich, and as to all securities
 ' there made, the pleas shall be tried at Norwich ;
 ' and if any one, in all England, shall take toll, or
 ' custom, from the men of Norwich, and afterwards
 ' shall not prosecute his writ of right, for so doing,
 ' the provost of Norwich shall take out the writ of
 ' naam † at Norwich. All the aforesaid customs
 ' we have granted them ; and all other liberties,
 ' and free customs, which our citizens of London
 ' have, had, or now have ; or any others, if ever
 ' they were possessed of any greater, or more free ;
 ' according to the liberties of London, and the laws
 ' of the city of Norwich. Wherefore we will, and
 ' firmly command, that the citizens, themselves,
 ' and their heirs, all the aforesaid things, with the
 ' city and its appurtenances, may have, and hold
 ' of us and our heirs, to them and their heirs ; pay-
 ' ing yearly 108l. of easterlings ‡, by tale, from the
 ' city of Norwich, by the hands of the provost of
 F 2 ' Norwich,

† From neman, to take, in the Saxon language : it being a power to take a distress of a man's goods, and carry them any where out of the county where the distress was taken : so that if any person should oblige a citizen of Norwich to pay toll or custom, and not prosecute his writ of right, in order to justify himself in that act ; the provost of Norwich had a power of distraining such person's goods,

and bringing such distress to Norwich ; and obliging him to try the right of taking such toll, or custom, in his court there.— It is sometimes called a writ of withernam.

‡ The best current money of the kingdom, called sterling ; from the Esterlings, or inhabitants of the north-east parts of Germany ; who first taught the English the art of refining gold and silver.

‘ Norwich, at our exchequer, every Michaelmas-
 ‘ day : and the citizens of Norwich may yearly
 ‘ choose such provosts, out of their own body, as
 ‘ shall be agreable to us, and them. Given at Portf-
 ‘ mouth, by the hands of William de Longchamp,
 ‘ bishop of Ely, our chancellor, the fifth day of
 ‘ May, in the fifth year of our reign.’

In the first year of the reign of king John, John de Grey, a Norfolk man, afterwards bishop of Norwich, on the promise of 300 marks to be paid by the citizens, obtained a confirmation of all their liberties. This charter is still extant in the Guildhall at Norwich, with a broad seal of green wax appendant thereto ; and bears date at Caen in Normandy, September 22, 1199. It is word for word the same as the charter of Richard I. only the king hath the additional title of ‘ Lord of Irland :’ and in the direction these words, ‘ To all provosts and ‘ bailiffs,’ are added : and in the reservation of the fee-farm, instead of the words ‘ esterlings by tale,’ it is ‘ sterling blanch,’ i. e. white or silver money.

In 1202, the assize of bread was fixed by the baker of Jeffery Fitz-Peter, lord chief justice of England : and all were bound to obey it, under penalty of the pillory.

The following year, the citizens convicted and executed several essayers §, or triers of money, that were

§ These essayers were persons deputed by the king, to see that the money was coined agreable to the standard : but many of

them being bribed by the mint-masters, the current coin became so debased, as to be of little value.

were arrested in this city ; but it appearing from their charter, that all persons belonging to the mint were excepted out of their jurisdiction, the king in 1205, for this offence, seized all their liberties, by the hands of the sheriff of Norfolk.

In 1215, Roger Bigot, earl of Norfolk, joining the rebellious barons, the king seized his castle ; and William Marshall, earl of Pembroke, and John Fitz-Robert, joint sheriffs of Norfolk and Suffolk, were, by patent, made constables of the castles of Norwich, and of Orford in Suffolk. Their appointment, however, was but of short duration ; for on the 19th of July, in the same year, Hubert de Burgh, a Norfolk man, and afterwards earl of Kent, was nominated to the government of both of them.

This king, in order to raise money, as well as to conciliate the affections of his subjects, granted a greater number of charters than any of his predecessors had done : he incorporated Lynn, Eye, Dunwich, Ipswich, Yarmouth, &c. and likewise granted to the citizens of London, the privilege of electing a mayor. In this reign there arose a contest between the monks and citizens, concerning the latter's right of commoning, with the prior's tenants, on the lands between Eaton, Lakenham, Hertford Bridges, and Norwich : but the matter was adjusted by a fine levied in the king's court.

Lewis, the dauphin, who had obtained a grant of this kingdom from the pope, on his deposing king John ; to effect which he had brought over a large force ; still continued to ravage the kingdom
after

after that prince's death. Having taken the castles of Heningham and Orford, he marched forward to Norwich; and seizing the castle, put a garrison into it, and made William de Bellemont, or Beaumont, his marshal, constable thereof: he then plundered the citizens, and reduced the city to a very low condition. Being soon after obliged to leave the kingdom, Roger Bigot, earl of Norfolk, was appointed constable of the castle by king Henry III. which he held 'till his death in 1220; and was succeeded by his son Hugh, the heir of all his lands and honours.

In 1217, the king taxed his royal demesnes; and the citizens paid 100 l. Yarmouth 60 marks; Dunwich 100 marks; (which shews that town to have been then in a flourishing condition) Ipswich 30; and Orford 15.

In 1223, the citizens obtained a grant, that the government of the city should be in four bailiffs, instead of a provost; but it does not appear that they had any charter for it.

In 1224, the factious barons were obliged to surrender up all the royal castles into the king's hands; and, amongst the rest, Roger Bigot was forced to deliver up that of Norwich.

In 1226, the king acquainted the citizens, that though the tallage, or tax, of Norwich, now granted on all ancient royal demesnes, amounted to 460 marks; yet for the value he had for the citizens, he had fixed it at 200 marks only.

In 1228, the citizens petitioned the king for a new charter, with a confirmation of their antient privileges, and an addition of new ones; particularly the power of trying all writs of novel disseisin*. This was granted on the payment of 80 marks, and six palfreys to the king. The charter is sealed with green wax, and marked carta quarta; and is the same, literally, with the preceding charters of king Richard and king John; with this addition: ‘ We have also granted to the said citizens, ‘ and do command that all persons who dwell in the ‘ city of Norwich, and partake of the liberties which ‘ we have granted to the said citizens of Norwich, ‘ may be taxed, and pay aid as the aforesaid citizens of Norwich do, when tallages, or aids, shall ‘ be laid upon them. We have also granted to them ‘ for ourselves and our heirs, that if any one hath ‘ withdrawn himself from paying their customs and ‘ scots, that he be forced to return to their society ‘ and custom, and be obliged to pay the same scot ‘ as they do; so that no person shall be acquitted ‘ thereof.’

In the 18th year of this king, A. D. 1233, Benedict, the physician, brought an appeal against James, a Jew of Norwich, for circumcising a child about nine years of age. The coroners of the liberties of the city, and thirty-six men thereof, were
of

* A writ, which lies for one ejected out of his lands, tenements, or services, in time of peace: by virtue of this writ, they could compel all persons to pay their aids and customs, who had hitherto refused to do so.

of the jury; who found that the boy was circumcised, and that all the Jews in Norwich were consenting thereto, except one, called Moses Ben Solomon: the truth of which was attested by William de Fressingfield, constable of Norwich, and others. The king therefore, and the major part of his council, viz. the archbishop of Canterbury, and the greater part of the bishops, earls, and barons of England; because the like cause had never happened before in the king's court, and because such a fact properly belonged to God and holy church; circumcision and baptism appertaining to faith; and, as there was no felony in the case, loss of member, maheme †, or mortal wound; resolved, that the fact should be first considered by holy church, and the ordinary. In consequence whereof, the boy was delivered to his father, to produce before the ecclesiastical judges; and the Jews, who were principals in this act, were continued in prison 'till 1236; when they were obliged to give the king an hundred marks, for respite of judgment.

About this time, the animosities that had subsisted for many years, between the monks and citizens, broke out with great violence. The former, having charters of liberties, prior to those of the citizens, were extremely uneasy at the privileges granted them by Richard I. and his successors; as they pretended, that they interfered with their ancient liberties; which both parties were very ready to stretch

† An injury done to any person, whereby he is rendered less able to defend himself, or offend his enemy.

stretch to the utmost. The monks being resolute, so far enraged the populace, that they forcibly entered the convent, and plundered and burnt part of it. The king being then at Bromholm in Norfolk, sent the sheriff of Norfolk to take inquisition of the depredations that had been committed. This the burgeses would neither suffer him to do, nor take the inquisition themselves, as their charter obliged them: whereupon, in the 19th year of his reign, A. D. 1234, he seized all their liberties into his own hands; but shortly after, upon their submission, restored them.

In 1236, the king directed his writ to the sheriff of Norfolk, acquainting him, that according to the liberties of the city, every one that merchandized in Norwich should pay tallages, taxes and aids, in the same manner as the citizens did; and therefore his tenants, in the fee of the castle, were obliged to pay with them.

In 1239, Ralf, abbot of Ramfeye, William of York, provost of Beverley, Henry de Bath, Roger Thirkelby, Jeremy de Caxton, and Gilbert de Preston, were appointed to settle all matters in dispute between the convent and city: but they not effecting it, the king himself came hither; and it seems made an agreement between the citizens and convent: for finding that the dispute arose by reason of their liberties; the monks claiming a free exercise of all their privileges, in their own jurisdiction and lands; and the citizens asserting a right of exercising theirs, within the monastery and lands of

the monks, they not being excepted in the city charter : and it being impossible that both could be exercised in the same place quietly ; and it appearing, that the liberties [of the monks were prior to those of the citizens, so there could be no necessity of excepting them in the city charter ; it not being in the king's power to grant what was another's property, by his own, and predecessor's gift ; he commanded, therefore, that the citizens should use all their privileges in their own jurisdiction, but should not molest the monks in the lands or places belonging to the convent ; who, in all such places, should use and exercise their own privileges, as heretofore. Accordingly, in 1244, when the tallage for the city was laid at 100l. the men, or tenants, of the prior of Norwich, who dwelt in Norwich, and held of the king lands and tenements there, were taxed at 20l. part of the said 100l. which they were obliged to pay : so that, although the prior carried his point, the citizens carried theirs too ; so far as to oblige the prior, and his tenants, to pay the fifth part of the tax of the city, for enjoying the same liberties as they did.

In 1240, the custody of the castles of Norwich and Orford were committed to Hamon Passelew, sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk ; to hold the same during the king's pleasure, under the same form, and with the same authority, as Henry de Neckton, late sheriff, held them. At this time, the royal castles were frequently committed to the sheriffs, with the title of custodes, or keepers ; who were to maintain

maintain them at their own charge: but the earls, barons, &c. were always called constables, and exercised royal power within the jurisdiction of their castles; which the sheriffs were not empowered to do, without special licence.

In 1249, the citizens sued the burgessees of Yarmouth for detaining their vessels, and not permitting them to proceed with their goods and merchandizes to the city, as they had always heretofore done.

This year also, William Ribold, a felon, lodged an appeal against William Noche, of Norwich, for harbouring thieves, receiving stolen goods, and killing a man: all which he offered to prove by duel, body to body, according to the law of the land. Upon which, Noche pleaded that he was a citizen of Norwich, and not bound to the common law of the land, as to duel; but that he was ready to justify himself, according to the custom of the city of London; which is, that in case of suspicion of murder, or manslaughter, there be eighteen jurors returned from the part of Walbrook, and eighteen more from the other part of the city; and that then the party suspected shall come before the king's itinerant justices; and if he swear, that the person, whose death he is suspected to be accessory to, was never the further or nearer to death any way by him, or any of his accomplices, friends, or relations, by his knowledge; and the thirty-six men, so warned, shall voluntarily swear that they believe his oath to be true; he shall be acquitted: but if any one of them refuse so to swear; he shall be condemned.

demned. This privilege being allowed him, eighteen jurors were accordingly summoned from the part beyond the water, and eighteen more on this side the water; and the said Noche took his oath, as aforesaid, and all the thirty-six jurors did the same; upon which he was acquitted of the murder; and being tried by a common jury of twelve citizens, for receiving stolen goods, and harbouring thieves, he was acquitted of those crimes also; and accordingly discharged.

At the same assizes, the dean of Norwich was prosecuted for taking holiday-toll † of the citizens; but he pleading that it was a custom, which his predecessors had enjoyed time immemorial, the action was discharged. A suit was also commenced against the citizens of Norwich, the burgessees of Yarmouth, and the inhabitants of Acle, for selling by unsealed measures: and another against the citizens, for taking toll of every bushel of corn; which being an innovation, they were not only fined, but at the same time had their liberties seized.

In 1252, the citizens, having regained their liberties, obtained the king's royal licence, empowering them to inclose their city with a ditch.

In 1255, the king granted a second charter: 'To his beloved citizens of Norwich, that they, and their heirs for ever, have this privilege throughout all his realm, and jurisdiction; viz. that neither
' they

† This, most probably, was a toll paid by the bakers, and others, to the dean of the city; for the liberty of baking, and selling things, on Sundays, and holidays.

‘ they, nor their goods, in whatever place they be
 ‘ found in his jurisdiction, be arrested for any debt
 ‘ which they shall not be bondsmen for, or princi-
 ‘ pal debtors themselves; unless it happen, that the
 ‘ debtors themselves be of their society, and jurif-
 ‘ diction, and have sufficient to pay part, or all their
 ‘ debts; and the aforesaid citizens shall neglect to do
 ‘ justice to the creditors of the said debtors; and they
 ‘ can plainly prove that they have so neglected:
 ‘ and we forbid, under the penalty of ten pounds to
 ‘ be forfeited to us, any one unjustly to vex, disturb,
 ‘ or molest them, in any case, contrary to the afore-
 ‘ said liberty. Given by our own hand, at Wood-
 ‘ stock, the 3d day of June, in the 39th year of
 ‘ our reign.’

The next year the king came to this city, as is evident from the charter of liberties granted to the port of Yarmouth; it being dated March 25, 1256, by the king at Norwich. On the same day he likewise granted his third charter to this city, as followeth: ‘ That the citizens, for ever, have the return
 ‘ of all writs, as well of summons out of our ex-
 ‘ chequer, as of all other things relating to our city
 ‘ of Norwich, and the liberty of the said city;
 ‘ and that the said citizens answer all debts and de-
 ‘ mands belonging to them at our exchequer, by
 ‘ their own hands †; and that no sheriff, or other
 ‘ bailiff, of ours, for the future, enter the city
 ‘ afore-

† ‘Till this time, the bailiffs were answerable for the fee-farm of the city, to the sheriff of Norfolk, and he returned

it into the exchequer; but for the future, the bailiffs were to answer it by themselves.

‘aforesaid, to take distresses for any debts, unless
‘for neglect of the citizens doing it; and that none
‘of them be forced to plead out of the aforesaid
‘city, for any offences committed in that city,
‘contrary to the tenor of their charters and liber-
‘ties; and that all merchants, enjoying their liber-
‘ties and merchandises, pay to the lot, scot, and
‘aids of the aforesaid citizens, wherever they
‘dwell, as they ought, and used to do: and that
‘for the future, no gild (or fraternity of merchants)
‘be held in the aforesaid city, to the damage of
‘the said city. And we forbid, on pain of for-
‘feiture of ten pounds to us, that any one presume
‘to disturb, molest, or trouble them, contrary
‘to this liberty and grant. Given by our hand, at
‘Norwich, the 25th day of March, in the 40th
‘year of our reign.’

This same year, several goods belonging to free-
men were arrested and stopped, for the debts of
non-freemen at Boston fair, as they had formerly
been; but on trial, the citizens, producing this
charter, recovered them. The citizens at the same
time complained of the prior, for taking landgable
of the citizens in the afternoon, when the bailiffs
of the city had taken it in the morning; which oc-
casioned another disturbance between the commons
and monks: but the prior proving, that he had only
taken it in Holm-street, and other places exempt
from the jurisdiction of the city, the citizens were
overthrown.

In 1263, prosecutions were commenced against several of the citizens, for firing one another's houses, and many other enormities: and indeed the whole city was divided into various factions: the bishop and clergy took part with the barons that were in arms against the king; whilst the city bailiffs and commons, with those of the castle fee, declared for the royal party. These unhappy divisions revived the old grudges which had so long subsisted between the citizens and monks, and exasperated them against each other to that degree, as to occasion the loss of many lives.

In 1265, Simon Mundford, and his adherents, seized all the king's castles, and committed the custody of them to their own friends: having also gotten the king's person into their power, they obliged him to send circular letters to the sheriffs of the several counties, and particularly to Roger Bigot, earl of Norfolk, and constable of the castle of Norwich, commanding them to oppose all attempts that might be made against the provisions of Oxford, and the ordinances agreed upon at London. But the king having routed the barons at Everham, removed all the constables which the confederates had appointed, and amongst the rest Roger Bigot; in whose stead John de Vallibus, or Vaux, was made constable of this castle, and sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk; and soon after, on account of the late disturbances in the city, he was ordered to enter it, notwithstanding its liberties.

In 1266, about the middle of December, the displaced barons, with sir John de Evile, or Eyville, at their head, entered the city; where they killed and imprisoned a great number of persons; and having plundered the town, carried away with them in triumph many of its wealthiest inhabitants.

In 1267, the bailiffs were summoned to answer for the many murders and disorders lately committed here; but they contemptuously departing the court without leave, the king seized the liberties, and kept them in his hands.

On the 29th of June, 1271, whilst the monks were at prime, the cathedral steeple was so violently struck with lightning, that several large stones were thrown down with such force, that they sunk a considerable way into the ground; and the whole choir was filled with stench and smoke: but happily no lives were lost. The city and adjacent country also received considerable damage, by a great flood which happened this year.

In 1272, at a fair granted to the church by charter, and then kept on Trinity Sunday (but now on the Saturday before) upon Tombland, before the monastery gates, there arose a quarrel between the citizens and the servants of the monastery; in which some of the citizens were killed: warrants were thereupon issued out, in consequence of the city coroners inquest, to take the murderers wherever they could be found: this so highly provoked the monks, who insisted that the place where the dispute arose was in their jurisdiction, and entirely

tirely exempt from that of the city magistrates, that they procured a number of armed men, shut up their gates, fired upon the citizens as they passed by, and wounded several of them. At length, on the Sunday before St. Lawrence's day, they sallied out into the city; which they ravaged all that day and night, committing many extravagant insolences, killing several merchants and citizens, and plundering their houses. The magistrates immediately dispatched letters, to acquaint the king with these proceedings; and ordered the citizens to meet them at ten o'clock the next day in the market-place: when, the populace being enraged at the depredations of the monks, proceeded directly to the priory, and assaulted it on every side: setting fire to the great gates; St. Albert's church, which stood close to them; the great almonry; the church doors, and great tower; which were all burnt down in a very short space of time. In fine, the whole church, (except the Virgin Mary's chapel) together with the dormitory, refectory, entertaining hall, and the infirmary, with the chapel belonging to it, and almost all the buildings in the court, were consumed: many of the sub-deacons, clerks, and some laymen, were killed in the cloister, and precinct of the monastery; others were carried out, and killed in the city; and others imprisoned. The monastery was plundered of all the gold, silver, holy vessels, books, vestments, and whatever the fire had not destroyed; the monks, except two or three very aged ones, having fled. Not satisfied

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with this, they continued, for the space of three days successively, to slay and plunder the tenants, and favourers of the church. The prior himself fled to Yarmouth, where getting together a company of armed men, he entered the city sword in hand, and, in his turn, fell to killing the citizens, and destroying their houses.

The king, on hearing these matters, gave orders, that if any Norwich men came to any of his ports, either in England or France, they should be seized, and imprisoned; and, further, commanded all the bishops, and nobles of England, to meet him at Bury on St. Giles's day, to counsel and advise him what was to be done in a matter of such importance. In the mean time, Roger de Skerning, bishop of Norwich, had convened his clergy at Eye in Suffolk; when an excommunication was denounc'd against all persons concerned in these outrages, and the whole city put under an interdict.

On St. Giles's day, the king held his parliament at Bury; and, by their advice, came to Norwich, to punish these violent outrages. He entered the city, September 14; when, at his request, the bishop took off the interdict. The king's justices caused thirty-four of the offenders to be drawn by horses through the streets 'till they died; others were hanged and quartered, and their bodies afterwards burnt; the woman that first fired the gates was burnt alive; and twelve of the inhabitants forfeited their goods to the king: the city was also fined 3000 marks, towards rebuilding the church, and

100l. for a cup, weighing ten pounds, in gold: and it appearing that William de Brunham, then prior, was in a great measure the cause of things coming to this extremity, the king committed him to the bishop's prison, and seized all the manors, and whatever belonged to the priory, into his own hands. He seized also the city, and its liberties, and assigned custodes, or keepers, to govern it in his name.

On the 27th of September, the king left Norwich; and the day after, William de Brunham, the prior, voluntarily, and freely, resigned the priory into the bishop's hands; when William de Kirkeby was elected in his room: to whom the king, shortly after, restored the whole revenues of the monastery.

On the 18th of October, on the citizens refusing to pay the sum they had been amerced for damages, the bishop again interdicted the city: and on the 16th of November the king died, being then in possession of the castle, the city, and all its liberties.

In 1273, 1 Edward I. Roger Bigot, earl of Norfolk, had the custody of the castle granted to him; and William Giffard was appointed sheriff of the county.---The interdict, laid on the city, was not taken off 'till Christmas-eve, 1273; and was renewed again the day after Epiphany: but at the request of Robert de Kilwarby, archbishop elect of Canterbury, it was again taken off 'till the octaves of Easter; and then renewed the third time.

In 1274, matters continued unfettled between the bishop, monks, and citizens; of whom, the prior

and convent demanded 4000 marks, for damages. In the beginning of November, they sent two of their monks to Rome, with a relation of the whole affair; complaining of the citizens, and citing them to appear, and answer in the pope's court. The pope, however, delegated the matter to be tried before the bishops of Ely and London; but just as the suit began, the bishop of London dying, it was again referred to the pope; who left the sole determination to the king; and at length the affair was settled, as followeth:

1. All parties shall become real friends.
2. The citizens shall within the space of six years, pay 3000 marks towards rebuilding the church; viz. 500 marks a year.
3. They shall give, to the use of the church, a pix or cup, weighing ten pounds, in gold, and worth one hundred pounds in money, to serve at the sacrament, at the high altar in the cathedral.
4. The monks may make new gates to their monastery; and go into any part of the city, injuring no man in his property.

And, lastly, some of the chief citizens, at their own charge, shall make a journey to Rome, to assure the pope of the truth of this agreement; and humbly to beg his pardon and peace.

These conditions being complied with, the king restored the city to all its ancient privileges and liberties; but at the same time commanded, that as a penalty, and in perpetual memory of this affair, their treasurer shou'd pay yearly into his exchequer
forty

forty shillings, over and above the old free-farm. Matters being thus settled, the bishop took off the interdict, November 1, 1275: and in 1276, the pope's general absolution arriving from Rome, was published, about Palm-Sunday, by the priors of the Minorites and Dominicans in Norwich, by order of the archbishop of Canterbury. Immediately after this, the prior obtained a patent to erect what gates he pleased, leading into the monastery; and to open and shut them at his pleasure; and also to build a gate, twenty feet broad, thereto adjoining: which most probably are those now called bishop's-gate and bridge.

In the same year, the king's tenants, in the fee of the castle, who enjoyed the benefit of free trade and commerce in the city, refused paying to the tallages, and other aids, demanded therefrom; but on trial in the exchequer, it was adjudged, that the tenants of the burgh of the castle, were liable to pay their proportion towards all such aids and tallages.

In 1277, the king made a military progress thro' Norfolk, Suffolk, and Essex, to see the state of his castles and forts; and to give orders for their being put into good condition, and supplied with all necessary stores: and during this progress, he kept his easter at Norwich.

In 1278, the cathedral, being now finished, was consecrated on Advent-Sunday, by William de Middleton, that day inthroned bishop of Norwich: the king, Eleanor his queen, John de Chifil, bishop of
of

of London, Thomas de Cantelupe, bishop of Hereford, Stephen, bishop of Waterford, and many other earls and barons being present at the solemnity.

In 1279, the statute of mortmain passed; by which it was enacted, that no religious society, or incorporation, should buy, or receive as a gift, any lands, tenements, &c. without licence from the king, and the chief lord of the fee.

In 1280, considerable damage was done to this city, and the circumjacent country, by tempests and inundations.

In 1281, the king seized the liberties; because the bailiffs were not at the exchequer, at the appointed time, to answer the city debts, and pay their fee-farm; but upon their appearance, and payment, they were restored.

In 1284, the king was in Norfolk, during the time of lent; and at Easter the liberties were seized, on account of the citizens having taken up, and executed divers persons, without the kings warrant, for facts committed out of their jurisdiction: one of them, who was hanged, came to life again, and afterwards obtained the king's pardon. On St. Peter's day the liberties were restored, on the citizens accounting with the exchequer, for all arrears then due.

In the course of the next year, they obtained a new charter, dated at Westminster, May 7, 1285, which recites and confirms all their former ones; but grants them no new privileges.

In

In 1286, May 2, all the Jews || in England were apprehended, and their fynagogue in Norwich destroyed. They nevertheless remained here, and in the other cities of England, till 1290; when the whole body of them was banished, to the number of 15,000, and upwards, for usury, and clipping and defacing the kings coin.

In 1288, many persons died here of heat and drought; and so great a scarcity succeeded, that wheat was sold in London at forty pence a quarter; an extravagant price at that time.

In 1289, the prior was prosecuted, by the king, for not suffering his bailiffs to distrain in Newgate and Holm-street; when, on trial it appeared, that Newgate was in the liberty of the king, and Holm-street in that of the prior.

The same year, in June, the liberties were seized; and Walter de Redham, and Richard de Belhus, appointed custodes: upon the citizens petitioning the parliament hereupon, they were told, that they should first compound with the king for their transgressions, by way of fine, and pay all arrears due to the exchequer; and that then his majesty would do them justice: all this being done, their liberties were restored again, towards the latter end of the year; when the dispute between the prioress and nuns of Carrow, and the city, was likewise settled: the prioress giving up her right of view of frank-pledge,

|| The Jews at this time, as to their civil government, were governed by one principal officer, called the justicer of the Jews; who took place next to the barons of the exchequer.

pledge, of all her tenants in Newgate, and other parts of the city ; as well as her right of toll of all corn sold in the city ; on the day preceding, the day of, and the day following, the nativity of the blessed virgin ; on the bailiffs paying yearly, on the day of the nativity aforesaid, to the prioress, half a comb of the best wheat ; and the city agreeing not to demand any toll, or to molest the prioress, during the time of her fair at Carrow.

The king, during a pilgrimage he now made, with his queen, to the blessed virgin, at Walsingham in Norfolk, granted the citizens another charter, of the following tenor.

‘ Whereas, our beloved citizens of the city of
‘ Norwich, hold the said city of us in fee-farm ;
‘ and the said citizens have given us to understand,
‘ that by the often coming of our justices, assigned
‘ to hold assizes and goal-delivery, warn juries,
‘ grant certificates, and take inquisitions of felonies
‘ and other transgressions ; and by their holding their
‘ sessions in divers places, within the liberty of the
‘ city aforesaid, which are appointed for holding
‘ the pleas belonging to the city, before the city
‘ bailiffs ; and from which places, great part of the
‘ fee-farm aforesaid is issuing ; the bailiffs them-
‘ selves are not only hindered from holding their
‘ pleas, but also greatly damaged, in collecting and
‘ levying their fee farm aforesaid : they have there-
‘ fore supplicated us, to ordain and command for
‘ their indemnity, that all such sessions shall be held
‘ only in our house called the shire-house, which is
in

‘ in the fee of the castle of our city aforesaid, and
 ‘ no where else within the liberty of the city aforesaid;
 ‘ said; to which we have favourably consented, and
 ‘ do will, and firmly command, for us and our
 ‘ heirs; that for the future, the justices, inquisitors*,
 ‘ and all other officers, of us and our heirs, which
 ‘ are, or ever shall be empowered, to hold assizes
 ‘ or gaol delivery, warn juries, take certificates
 ‘ and inquisitions, shall sit and hold their sessions,
 ‘ in our house aforesaid, called the shire house;
 ‘ and no where else within the liberty of the city
 ‘ aforesaid: provided nevertheless, that this shall
 ‘ not be prejudicial to our chancellor, treasurer,
 ‘ chief justice, or justices itinerants, or to the
 ‘ steward or marshalls of the household, of us or
 ‘ our heirs; but that they and every one of them,
 ‘ when he or they come to the city aforesaid, may
 ‘ sit in the liberty aforesaid; and may exercise and
 ‘ do all things, belonging to them or any of them,
 ‘ where or when they think fit or convenient. Wit-
 ‘ nesses our self at Walsingham, the 2d day of Feb.
 ‘ in the 19th year of our reign.”

On the Wednesday after the feast of Epiphany, happened so violent a flood, that the water ran over White-friers bridge, and bore down several houses by its impetuosity.

In 1291, the liberties were again seized, but soon after restored.

In 1294, the city walls were first begun; for
 I which

* Coroners, Escheators, &c.

which purpose a murage was granted*, and another in 1297, on the expiration of the former.

In the year 1300, Roger Bigot, to save his life, which he had forfeited by conspiring against the king, resigned into the king's hands his earldom of Norfolk, his constableness of Norwich castle, together with all his demesne castles, honours, manors and lands: but the next year obtained a regrant of them in tail special, to himself for life, and to his heirs by Alice his wife, with remainder to the king; to whom they descended by his dying without issue.

In 1302, it was determined, that Tombland and Ratton-rowe were out of the liberty of the city, and in the king's hundred of Blofield; and soon after the tallage of the city was assessed at 400l.

In 1304, the citizens petitioned the king in parliament, for a grant of the lete of Newgate; which he not only complied with, but on their paying a fine, and advancing their old fee farm 10l. a year, he confirmed all their former charters; and granted them the following one, containing many new liberties and privileges.

‘ Know ye, that we for a fine, paid us by the
 ‘ citizens of our city of Norwich, before our
 ‘ council; and also for 10l. yearly, and for ever,
 ‘ agreed to be paid by the said citizens, and
 ‘ their successors, into our exchequer, as an augmen-
 ‘ tation of the fee-farm of the city aforesaid; have
 ‘ given, and confirmed by this our charter, to the
 ‘ said

* A tax levied for the Building, or repairing the walls of any city or town.

' said citizens, and their successors aforesaid, for us
 ' and for our heirs; that none of them plead, or be
 ' impleaded out of our said city of Norwich, con-
 ' cerning any pleas, assizes or complaints relating to any
 ' tenures whatsoever within the said city; or any
 ' offences, or contracts made in the said city; unless
 ' the matter may concern us, or our heirs in parti-
 ' cular: and that the citizens and their successors
 ' aforesaid, be not convicted, before any foreign
 ' officers in any appeals, writs of right, claims, of-
 ' fences, contracts or demands arising among them-
 ' selves, but by their fellow citizens only; unless
 ' the fact concern us or our heirs, or the whole
 ' community of the said city. And also, that
 ' they be not summoned to assizes, nor impan-
 ' nelled on juries, or any inquisitions concerning
 ' tenures in the city; or concerning any fact,
 ' contract, claim, or complaint arising by any means
 ' in the said city; nor forced to enter into any
 ' recognizances to serve at assizes, or juries, out
 ' of the aforesaid city; unless the fact particular-
 ' ly concern us or our heirs: furthermore, we
 ' have granted, for us and our heirs, to the said
 ' citizens, that they, and their successors aforesaid,
 ' be for ever free from toll†, pontage, passage,
 I 2 ' murage,

† Toll, in its largest sense, money paid for passing over,
 signifies a tax, or tribute: but building, or repairing bridges.
 is most commonly used for Passage; hire paid for being
 that tax collected at markets carried over the sea, or rivers.—
 or fairs, for the liberty of sell- Pavage; a toll paid towards
 ing goods or cattle.—Pontage; the repairing and maintaining
 streets

‘ murage, pavage, lastage, carriage, picage, cay-
 ‘ age and rivage, throughout our whole kingdom
 ‘ and dominion. And that no inhabitant of the
 ‘ said city, or any other person indicted or ar-
 ‘ rested in the said city, for any debt or action,
 ‘ be imprisoned any where but in our city gaol;
 ‘ and all that be so arrested and indicted, be de-
 ‘ tained in that prison, and kept by the bailiffs
 ‘ of our said city, untill they be thence delivered,
 ‘ according to the law and custom of our realm;
 ‘ unless they be thence removed by the special
 ‘ precept of us and our heirs; or otherwise, by
 ‘ the precept of the justice of our forests for the
 ‘ time being: in case they be indicted, taken,
 ‘ and detained for any offence done in our fo-
 ‘ rests. And that all summons, distresses, attach-
 ‘ ments, and other royal offices whatever, arising
 ‘ within the said city or its suburbs, be made by
 ‘ our bailiffs of the said city. And that no she-
 ‘ riff, coroner or other bailiff, or any other fo-
 ‘ reign officer of ours, perform or execute any of-
 ‘ fice royal in the aforesaid city; (i. e.) within the
 ‘ ditches of the same city and the bank of the
 ‘ river Wensum, or in the suburb aforesaid; un-
 ‘ less on neglect of our bailiffs of the said city.
 ‘ And

streets or highways.—Lastage ;	&c. from one place to another.—
a custom paid for carrying goods	Picage ; a toll paid in fairs, or
to and from markets or fairs ;	markets, for breaking up the
or a duty on wares sold by	ground to set booths, stalls,
the last ; and sometimes means	&c.—Cayage ; a duty paid for
a liberty of taking ballast for	landing goods at any quay or
ships.—Carriage ; a duty paid	wharf.—Rivage ; a toll paid
for conveying merchandises,	for the passage of boats, &c,

‘ And it shall be lawful for our bailiffs of the ci-
‘ ty, for the time being, to assess tallages, and
‘ other reasonable aids upon the community of the
‘ said city, by the consent of the whole commu-
‘ nity, or the major part thereof, as often as there
‘ shall be occasion so to do, for the defence and
‘ common utility of the city; and to make rea-
‘ sonable distresses for the levying such tallages,
‘ and aids, as hath been heretofore, in like cases,
‘ reasonably done in other cities. And we have
‘ granted to them, for us and our heirs, that they
‘ and their successors aforesaid, have and hold our
‘ lete of Newgate in the said city, which we
‘ lately recovered by judgment of our court, a-
‘ gainst the prior of the Holy Trinity of Norwich;
‘ and is of the yearly value of 2s. and that they
‘ receive the amerciaments, and all other profits
‘ any way arising therefrom, for ever. And if,
‘ by chance, the citizens have not heretofore ful-
‘ ly used all the liberties granted them and their
‘ ancestors, citizens of the said city, by our char-
‘ ters, or by the charters of our ancestors, kings
‘ of England, formerly granted them; we will, and
‘ grant, for us and our heirs, that they and their
‘ successors aforesaid, may reasonably make use of
‘ and enjoy all those liberties, whenever hereafter
‘ any case may arise, which demands the use of,
‘ them, fully; and without any impediment from
‘ us, our heirs, or any of our officers. Given by
‘ our own hand at Canterbury, the 8th day of
‘ July, in the thirty third year of our reign.’

This

This year the citizens, to enable them to go on with their walls, obtained a third murage, which was to continue for five years.

In 1306, the king understanding that great animosities still subsisted between the church and the city, referred the whole matter to his privy council; and by their advice made a final composition and agreement between them: by which all their jarring interests were adjusted, and their respective rights particularly ascertained. The original dispute was this: The prior and convent claimed all Tombland as their demesne; and asserted that their coroner, and other officers, had a right of exercising their offices, not only in the priory, but in Tombland, Ratton-rowe, Holmestrete, and Spytelond in Norwich, where the tenants of the priory resided; which tenants, they further said, might lawfully exercise their trades there, without contributing at all to tallages, &c. with the other citizens: on the other hand, the citizens insisted, that all the jurisdiction originally belonging to the crown was now vested in them: that this jurisdiction had not only extended to the places which were the subject of their dispute, but also to the priory itself; and of consequence, whoever traded in any of those places, were liable to pay all charges, equally with the rest of the citizens.

Now therefore it was agreed, that Tombland should be cleared of all timber, &c. and always kept so; except at the time of the yearly fair, belonging to the prior and convent, held there

at

at Whitsuntide; so that for the future, neither the church, nor city, should use it as formerly; either as a market, or to lay timber on, or for the making ropes; the times of holding synods at Norwich, and Sundays excepted; when victuals, fruit, &c. may be sold at the priory gates, as was customary in former times. Before the following Ascension-day, the ground was to be measured, and equally divided by doles, both in length and breadth; and at every fair, the citizens were to choose first, which half they would have to build their stalls upon; for which no picage, stallage, toll, or custom was to be paid: the other half to remain to the prior, to make what advantage he could of it. That part of the street between the stone cross lately erected and Ratton-rowe, in breadth, and from the cross to the priory wall in length, was not to be built upon, but to be left open as a passage to the priory gates; and for the horses and cattle to stand there, as usual, for sale. The prior to have all rights as before, and all customs, belonging to this fair, both in the city and suburbs; and his officers to take distresses, attachments, and all things belonging to the fair, in the same manner as the bailiffs, and under bailiffs of the city do, at all other times in the year. During the fair, all citizens, and others, may be summoned, attached, distrained, and amerced in the prior's fair-court*; and when the fair be over, all prisoners, put into the prior's prison during

* The pie powder court.

ring the fair, shall the day after be sent to the king's city prison; and be delivered into the custody of the city bailiffs, until they be released by due course of law; but in case they be convicted to loose life or limb, the officers of the prior shall execute the judgment. The coroner of the city was empowered to take inquisitions in the priory, and the other places before mentioned; but with respect to the precincts, Holmestrete, and Spytelond, whenever he had occasion to exercise his office there, the prior was to name a person to be present and assisting; and to see, that he did nothing maliciously, or contrary to his duty; the jury to be inhabitants of these parishes only: and no person living in the precinct was to be compelled to serve on any jury, or inquisition out of the precinct: and further, the coroner was to deliver an indented transcript of the verdict to the assistant sent by the prior; which assistant was to be sworn by the coroner, to discover none of the king's secrets: and no coroner to enter the above places, 'till he had given the prior notice, and demanded an assistant. The prior and convent were to hold their free, or courts barons with their letes, in Spytelond, and Holmestrete, without any bailiff, or city officer being present. The city was not to intermeddle, as to any pleas, or concerns for any lands, houses, or things within the precinct; nor to pretend to exercise any jurisdiction there: and the prior was to receive no one that fled from justice, out of the hands of the city officers, unless he be intitled

titled to the privilege of holy church. All persons taken in Holmstrete, and Spytelond, for theft, were to be judged in the prior's court there; and if any be condemned in the city, and belong to those places, the prior was to execute such judgment; and the forfeited chattles were to remain in the parishioners hands, until the king's itinerant justices should determine, whether they belong to the prior or the city. All persons, presented in the prior's lete, that belong to the jurisdiction of the city, to be delivered to the bailiffs; and all persons, presented in the king's city lete, before the bailiffs, if they belong to Holmestrete, or Spytelond, to be delivered to the prior's officers on the day after the lete. The city not to hinder the prior of the amerciaments of his own men, and tenants; nor of the chattles of fugitives and felons, which the king's charters have granted him. Neither shall such of the prior's tenants, or farmers, as live in Ratton-rowe, Holmestrete, and Spytelond, and owe service in the prior's lete, be compelled to serve in the king's lete in Norwich; but, if they do not belong to the prior's lete, they shall be subject to the king's; nevertheless, their amerciaments shall belong to the prior. None of the prior's family shall merchandise gross wares in the precinct, so as the city lose any toll, or custom. The bailiffs not to distrain or enter into Holmestrete, or Spytelond, nor to levy any tolls or customs there for the city; they being excluded from merchandising: but if

any merchandise there, they are to pay, according to their trade or merchandise, all city tolls, or customs, &c. to the prior, who is to answer them to the city bailiffs; and if the prior will not do it, he may be compelled in the king's superior courts by due course of law: and which ever party breaks this agreement, the same remedy to be taken.

It appears, that at this time the bailiffs paid the fee farm of the city; which, as the rents and tolls frequently failed, made it commonly an expensive office. A law, therefore, was passed, that for the future, no man should be compelled to serve that office above once in four years; and further, that no one should merchandise in the city above a year and a day, without taking up his freedom; for which he was to pay a fine of forty shillings, unless intitled to it by birth or service. The bailiffs, at their admission into office, took an oath to serve the king faithfully that year, in the office of bailiff; to keep, and defend the city; and well, duly, and faithfully to administer justice, equally to rich and poor; the ancient laws, liberties, and customs, used immemorially by the citizens, to preserve inviolate; and also well, duly, and faithfully, to pay the fee farm of the city, and indemnify the city by so doing; and to execute all judgments by them given, according to the custom of the city, without sparing any one in any way whatever; and to maintain, and in all things to promote, the
constant

constant use of their ancient laws, liberties, and customs; and suffer no one to merchandise above the usual time, without taking up his freedom; and if any person should refuse to do so, to seize his wares found in the city, and detain them, 'till he submit to the law of the city; and either take up his freedom, or leave the place.

In 1312, the 5th of Edward II. Thomas de Brotherton obtained a charter from the king, in tail general, of all the honours formerly possess'd by Roger Bigot, marshal of England, and earl of Norfolk; by which means he became constable of this castle: and it is very probable, (by his arms still remaining carved on the walls) that he built the stair case, added the battlements, and fitted up the castle, in the manner we now find it.

In 1314, the price of provisions was so extravagantly risen, on account of a great dearth, that it occasioned the holding a parliament in London; in which it was ordained, that an ox fatted with corn should be sold at 24s. if with grafs, at 16s. a fat cow at 12s. any other cow at 10s. a fat mutton fed with corn, together with its wool, at 1s. 8d. if shorn, at 1s. 2d. a fat hog, of two years old, at 3s. 4d. a fat goose at 2d. a fat capon at 2d. a fat hen at 1d. and 24 eggs 1d. and whoever took larger prices should forfeit his wares to the king: but the scarcity still increasing, the act was repealed; and so great was the want of corn, that bread could not be got to

support the king's household : and what greatly added to the calamity was, that the succeeding year a dreadful pestilence broke out, occasioned by the unwholsomness of the food on which the people were obliged to feed ; corn being then at the extravagant price of 20s. a comb. This famine and mortality ceased in May, 1316, after having raged above two years.

In 1317, another murage was granted, which enabled the citizens to finish their walls about the year 1319 or 1320. In this year also, sir John Howard, son and heir of William Howard, one of the judges of the court of Common Pleas, was made sheriff of Norfolk, and custos of the castle. It is probable that the king was here in 1326, and that he went from hence to Walsingham, at which place his charter, granted to this city, is dated on the 3d of Feb. which confirms and recites all former charters by way of *inspeximus* ; but contains no new privileges.

About Michaelmas, queen Isabel, Roger de Mortimer, Edmund of Woodstock, earl of Kent, the king's brother, &c. landed at Orwell near Harwich, and soon after came to Norwich : from thence they went to Bury, where staying some time to refresh themselves, they proceeded forward ; and so successfully prosecuted their wicked intentions, as to depose the king on Christmas-day following, and murder him on the 21st day of September, 1327.

Edward III. on his coming to the crown, granted to his mother, queen Isabel, an hundred pounds,

pounds, to be paid yearly by the bailiffs of this city, out of the fee farm; which at this time amounted to 126l. 11s. 5d. and to sir John Montgomery 26 l. so that the city was responsible to the exchequer for eleven shillings and five pence only. At this time the king, by charter, confirm'd to Thomas de Brotherton, in tail general, all the estates and honours heretofore granted him in the 6th of Edw. II. among which was the constableship of this castle.

In that king's reign, one John Pecoek, sen. had obtained a patent, for the assay or measuring of all worsteds made in Norwich or Norfolk; so that no maker could sell a single piece, 'till he had affixed his seal to it; which patent he immediately assigned to Robt. Poleye: but, upon the city's representing how injurious this practice was to their trade, as well as expensive to them, the patent was revoked in 1328; and a free trade for all worsteds granted: this may shew us, how considerable the manufactory of this city was, even in those early times; and that to this cause its prodigious increase and populousness were owing.

In 1329, Simon de Berford, the king's escheator on this side Trent, claimed the rents of all such buildings as were erected on the waste ground of the city, as the right of the king; whereby all the new increased rents, amounting to 9l. 11s. 3d. a year, would have been lost to the city. The small farms, or old rents of houses erected upon the city waste, from its original, to the time of Edward II. amounted to no more than nine shillings and two pence: so that, by comparing the new increas'd

creas'd rents with the old ones, we shall find, that in the space of about thirty years, nineteen times as many houses were erected upon their waste as had been before: a plain proof how great a flow of people trade had occasioned. Upon complaint made to the king and parliament, a writ was directed to the said Simon, certifying him, that the citizens held the city, and all the waste ground there, by fee farm in inheritance; and therefore he was not to molest them; for that they had full power of letting their void grounds for their profit and advantage, the better to enable them to discharge their said fee farm.

In 1330, another dispute arose between the prior and city; but on the 6th of June the matter was agreed, by the prior's releasing all right to the ground on which the citizens had built their walls, between Barr or Pokethorpe and FibrIDGE or Magdalen gates; and the citizens yielding up to the prior, all the lands adjoining to the site of the monastery, lying between the precinct wall and the river Wensum; and allowing him the liberty of building houses on each side of Bishop's-bridge; so that a sufficient passage be left on both sides thereof, for watering horses, and lading and unlading goods; and also a further liberty of building upon the bridge, and making gates there, and enjoying the whole profits of them, provided the citizens and their successors have the keeping thereof.

In

In 1331, the king fixed staples for wool, sheeps skins, and other commodities; none of which were to be sold any where but in a staple town: Norwich was the only one appointed for the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk. This so provoked the burgesſes of Yarmouth, that they ſtopped all ſhips, veſſels and boats, coming thro' their port to the city: the conſequence was, the renewing a ſuit which had been commenced in 1327, but dropped ſoon after: in the courſe of the proceedings, the burgesſes produced the charter of Edward I. by which their town was conſtituted a port, and had divers privileges annexed to it; and inſiſted, that no one could merchandize, paſs, or repaſs, contrary to their charter. To this the citizens pleaded, that Norwich was a mercantile and trading town, and one of the royal cities of England, ſituated on the banks of a river, leading to an arm of the ſea, and from thence extending to the main ocean; upon which ſhips, boats, and other veſſels have time immemorial come to their market, every day in the week, and to their public marts or fairs, held twice in the year, with all manner of merchandize, as well of foreigners and ſtrangers, as of Engliſhmen and denizens; and all this done, when the ſpot, where Yarmouth now ſtands, was main ſea: and that they have always bought and ſold, laded and unladed, all their goods free from tolls, and cuſtoms; not only at Yarmouth parva, but at every port on the arm of the ſea, which they
now

now call Yarmouth port, and all over England; and that all foreign merchants paid all their customs at Norwiche, which was then the port, and in the king's hands; viz. 4d. for every ship of bulk, and 2d. for every boat, and all other customs whatever for their merchandise; all which were due to the kings of England, 'till Henry II. granted the city, with all its tolls, rights and customs, to the citizens, and their heirs for ever; they paying a fee farm of 108 l. a year: all which privileges have been confirm'd by divers kings, and enjoyed by the citizens to this day; for which reason they humbly begged that the king would either revoke the charter of Edward I. granted to the burgeses of Yarmouth, or not suffer it to prejudice the city. The king hereupon, by advice of his privy council, directed his writ, commanding the bailiffs of Yarmouth to make proclamation, that if any hindered, or any ways molested the merchants vessels, of what kind soever, in passing or repassing thro' the port of Yarmouth, to and from the city of Norwiche, they should forfeit all their goods, and chattels forfeitable.

The king, in the eleventh year of his reign, granted a charter, dated at Westminster the 4th day of Oct. reciting, and confirming all former charters granted to this city, but without the addition of any new liberties.

The year 1336 is likewise memorable for the great increase of Flemish or worsted stuffs, so called from Wursted, or Worsted, in Norfolk, the
place

place where the manufactory was first settled, in the time of Henry I. by a colony of Dutch, who were driven out of their country by an inundation: for on the king's marriage with Philippa, daughter of William earl of Hainault, great numbers of Flemings came over, and settled at Worsted, Norwich, Lavenham, Sudbury, &c. inso-much that Norwich, in a few years, became the most flourishing city in England, by reason of its extensive trade, in worsteds, fustians, freezes, and other woolen manufactures: and so much hath the government thought this trade worth protecting, that there have been no less than fourteen statutes made, besides divers writs, and proclamations issued, and ordinances established, to guard and nourish it. This, Edward III. took very proper methods to effect, by prohibiting any unwrought wool to be carried out of the kingdom, and by granting great privileges and liberties to all artificers, who should come over and settle here: at the same time enacting, that none should wear any other than English cloth, or use any facing of silk or furs, except the king, the queen, or their children, unless they could afford to spend 100l. a year: and this is the first sumptuary law § we meet with in our history.

The earls of counties, who had the custody of the royal castles, having frequently hindered the sheriffs from imprisoning criminals in those castles, an act was made in the fourteenth year of this

L king,

§ Laws made to restrain excess in diet, or apparel.

king, by which it was enacted; that gaols, which used to be in ward of the sheriffs, and annexed to their bailiwicks, should be given up to the sheriffs of the several counties; and that the sheriffs, should have the custody of the same gaols and prisoners there, as they formerly used to have: and from that time, this castle became the public gaol of the county of Norfolk, and in the sheriffs custody to keep his prisoners; and still remains so: nevertheless for some time after, the king continued to nominate a constable to keep it, as to its defence, in his name: for we find that in 1354, Roger Clerk was constable of the castle.

In 1340, and the fifteenth year of his reign, the king appointed a tournament to be held at Norwich, at which himself, and queen Philippa were present: it began in February, and lasted till Easter following. Two years after, the king and queen visited the city again.

The gates and towers of the city were now fortified and made habitable, by Richard Spynk, citizen of Norwich; who gave thirty espringolds, or warlike instruments, to cast great stones with, to be always kept at the following places; two at Coslany or St. Martin's at Oak gate; two at St. Augustine's gate; two at Fibridge or Magdalen gate; one at Bishopsgate; two in the tower on the river by the dungeon; one at Conisford gate; six in the great black tower by Berstrete; six at Berstrete gate; two at Nedham or St. Stephen's gate; two

two at St. Giles's gate; two at Westwyck or St. Benedict's gate; and two at the toll-house, now the hall in the market; and to every espringold one hundred gogions or balls; also four great arblasters or cross bows; and to each of them one hundred gogions or balls, and two pair of grapples to draw up the bows with: he also gave two hundred pounds towards enlarging and deepening the ditches belonging to the city walls; and expended a large sum in repairing a low place between the river and St. Martin's gate: he built likewise forty-five rods of wall, and four towers, between St. Augustine's and Magdalen gates; and in a great measure those gates themselves: he made the portcullis*, with all the instruments thereto belonging, both bars and chains, at St. Augustine's, St. Martin's, Berstrete, St. Stephen's, St. Giles's, St. Benedict's, Conisford, Heigham, and Pockthorp gates, and covered them with lead: he rebuilt Bishopsgate, and repaired that bridge and its arches, and erected a stone wall at Rosceline's flathe: he built also the tower, on the other side the river, by Conisford gate, and made two great chains to go cross from tower to tower: he leaded, and fortified the great black tower of Berstrete, and the two towers between that and Berstrete gate; and offered 100 l. if any one would raise as much more, to finish all the towers, in the same manner with those he had already repaired

L 2

and

* A falling gate, in form of a harrow, let down in the gate-space of fortified places, to keep out the enemy, and annoy them through it.

and beautified: and when no one would join with him, he undertook, and performed it himself. For these services, the citizens gave him their common seal to pay their part; and a grant, that neither he, nor his heirs male, for ever, should be obliged to bear any office, or serve on any juries in the city, without their own consent; and that they should be, for ever, quit and free from all tallages, taxes, &c. in the city, and from all customs for merchandise bought and sold, and from all murage and pavage whatsoever: and the city agreed to find constant guards at the gates and towers; and if such guards neglected to do their duty, on complaint made by him or his heirs, the city was to turn them out, and appoint others: and if the said Richard died without heirs male, his eldest daughter, and her eldest heir, was to stand in the place of his heirs male; and if he had no children, his next heir was to enjoy the same privileges*.

At an assembly, held on St. James's day, in the 18th of Edward III. at the request of the said Richard Spynk, it was ordered, and established, that it should be proclaimed every quarter of a year throughout the city; that if any one suffered any beast to enter the city ditches, or cast or laid any thing whatsoever into them, or into the arches of the city wall, or into any of the gates, they should be fined for every such offence. The day after he had

* The witnesses to this agreement, were John de Stratford, archbishop of Canterbury; William de Claxton, prior of Norwich; sir Robert de Ufford, earl of Suffolk; sir John Bardolf,

had perfected these his great undertakings, he signed a general release to the city, of all debts, actions, and demands to that day; only reserving to himself, and heirs, the liberties aforesaid.

In 1343, October 19, fell an exceeding great rain, attended with a prodigious high wind; by the violence of which the passage-boat, then coming from Yarmouth, was sunk near Cantley; and out of forty passengers, two only escaped with their lives.

In 1344, Richard de Lyng, parson of Redeham, John de Berneye, and John Chevelee, gave the citizens a piece of ground; on which the city wall was built, extending from Pockthorp gate to the river Wensum.

This year the king and queen honoured the city again with their presence: and, the year following, John de Berneye and Richard Clere were appointed commissioners, before whom a writ, *ad quod damnum*, was executed, concerning the fee of the castle of Norwich; it being doubtful, from its long continuing in the possession of the earls of Norfolk, whether it belonged to them, or to the king only; when, upon a solemn hearing, it was adjudged to be the king's right; and that the earls of Norfolk held it only as the king's constables. Whereupon the castle was confirmed to the sheriff of Norfolk, to keep the king's prisoners there; and as such continues annexed to the county of Norfolk, for a
county

Bardolf, lord of Wormgeye; ward de Cretyng; and sir Peter
sir John de Norwich; sir Ed- de Ty, knights.

county gaol; but, as to the jurisdiction belonging to it, return was made by John Howard, then sheriff of Norfolk, that it would be no damage to the king to grant it to the city, except the loss of 12d. arising from the pleas of the jurisdiction: and, at the same time, the citizens informing his majesty, by the queen, who had always strongly espoused their interests, that the inhabitants of the castle ditches, being in the fee of the castle, were not only not taxable with the city, but exempt also from the city bailiffs, and entirely without their jurisdiction; and that the citizens often took refuge there, and avoided justice, being screened by the sheriff of the county, and his bailiffs: the king taking these matters into consideration, granted them a charter, dated at Hertford, August 19, in the 19th year of his reign over England, and 6th over France: by which, the better to enable the bailiffs and citizens to pay their ancient fee farm, he thus ordains:

‘ They and their successors, for the future, shall
‘ have jurisdiction, in all places adjoining to the
‘ ditches of our castle of our said city, which
‘ are of the fee of the said castle; whether they be
‘ now, or shall be hereafter, inhabited: and that
‘ those places be of the same nature, and condition,
‘ as other places and tenements of the said citizens
‘ in the city aforesaid; (the house called the shire-
‘ house *, where the common pleas of the county
‘ are

* This was the old shire-house, which formerly stood on the south side of the castle ditches.

are held, only excepted). And also, that they shall have the full trial, as well concerning the tenures of the said fee, as of all other pleas whatsoever, issuing within the aforesaid fee by our writs; and also the returns of writs and summons of our exchequer, and the execution thereof; and also, power of enquiry concerning all manner of transgressions, felonies, concealments of felons and fugitives, hereafter happening within the said fee; and thereupon may do, and execute justice, according to the law and custom of the city aforesaid. And also, that the persons now dwelling in the aforesaid places, or that shall hereafter dwell there, be of the lot and scot of the said citizens; and do contribute according to their rated portions, to all tallages, aids, and other burdens belonging to the said city, with the men of the said city; and if there be occasion, that they be compelled so to do by the bailiffs of the said city: and neither the sheriff for the time being, nor his officers, shall enter the places aforesaid; nor concern themselves with those who reside in them; nor any way hinder or disturb the bailiffs of the city, or the citizens, from free ingress and egress to and from all the said places; provided that the said bailiffs and citizens do answer to us, at our exchequer, for all tenths, taxes, and aids, already due, or which shall hereafter be due, to us or our heirs, from the residents in the said places; over and above the ancient portion, which the bailiffs and citizens used heretofore

‘ tofore to pay for their city. And moreover, the
‘ said bailiffs and citizens, and their successors, shall
‘ have power to collect, and levy all such pay-
‘ ments, of all persons now inhabiting, or that shall
‘ hereafter inhabit, in any of the places aforesaid;
‘ rendering to us, and our heirs, at our exchequer,
‘ over and above the old fee-farm of the city, the
‘ annual sum of 26s. 10d. for the rent of the said
‘ inhabited places; and 6s. 8d. for the lete; and
‘ 9s. for the pleas and perquisites of the court there-
‘ to belonging; at which sums, the annual rents of
‘ the said places already inhabited, and the profits
‘ of the lete, and of the pleas aforesaid, are now
‘ valued; as by the inquisitions may more fully ap-
‘ pear: and also 10s. 10d. a year, besides the afore-
‘ said sums, as an increase of rent; and the yearly
‘ sum of 12d. which by this grant, it is said, will
‘ be lost to us, by amerciaments, and other profits
‘ of the pleas aforesaid; and from the rents of the
‘ places now inhabited and built upon; and which
‘ might accrue by licensing other places to be in
‘ like manner inhabited and built upon. Further-
‘ more, considering the costs and charges, which
‘ the said citizens have been at, in inclosing our
‘ city with walls, without any expence to us; and
‘ being willing to make them some grateful ac-
‘ knowledgment therefore, we, of our special fa-
‘ vour, and at the request of Isabel, queen of Eng-
‘ land, our most dear mother, have granted, and
‘ by this our charter confirmed, to the aforesaid
‘ bailiffs and citizens, that they, and their heirs
‘ and

‘ and fucceffors, dwelling in the faid city, fhall
 ‘ be for ever free from the jurifdiction of the clerk
 ‘ of the market of our houfhould, and of our heirs;
 ‘ fo that the faid clerk, or his officer, fhall in no
 ‘ wife enter the faid city, or the fee aforefaid, to
 ‘ make affay of any meafures or weights; or to
 ‘ exercife, or do any other matter, any way apper-
 ‘ taining to the faid office of clerk of the market:
 ‘ neither fhall they, in the prefence or abfence of
 ‘ us, or our heirs, exercife the faid office in any
 ‘ manner whatfoever.’

Thus the citizens became proprietors of all the exempt jurifdiction of the caftle, the caftle ditches, and the lands belonging to the bailiwick of the caftle: the fite of the caftle itfelf, that is, the principal hill on which it ftands, and the firft ditch round it to the foot of the principal bridge, which is, and always was repaired by the county; and alfo the old fhire-houfe, which ftood fouthward of the faid bridge, only excepted.

In 1347, Robert Poleye, notwithstanding the recal of his patent, ftill exercifed the affay and alnage † of worfteds in Norwich and Norfolk; and infifted, that his patent was of force during his life. The worfted weavers, and merchants hereupon petitioned the parliament to revoke this grant, and to permit the bailiffs to appoint an alnager; all which was complied with, refpecting the meafurement and fealing of all worfted ftuffs, but

M

with

† Alnage, (from the French aune, an ell) fignifies the meafuring any fort of goods by the ell.

with a particular exception as to whole woollen cloths.

In 1348, the plague, which had already ravaged the greatest part of the known world, broke out in this city; wherein there died, according to the most credible accounts, within the space of twelve months, upwards of 57,000 persons, besides religious and beggars; and this will not appear very surprising, when we consider, that in some places, not one-fifth part of the people were left alive; and that Norwich was more populous at that time, than it hath ever been since. It then contained sixty parish churches, besides seven conventual ones, within the walls; and the large parishes of Pockthorp and Heigham, and the conventual chapel of St. Mary Magdalen, without them.

This severe visitation was not confined to the city alone, but cruelly extended itself all over the diocese; so that in many monasteries and religious houses, there were scarce two out of twenty left alive. From the register-book it appears, that in the course of the year there were 863 institutions; the clergy dying so fast, that they were obliged to induct into livings numbers of youths, who had but just received the tonsure. Clement the 6th, by his bull, dated at Avignon, October 13, at the instance of William Bateman, bishop of Norwich, dispensed with sixty clerks at one time, though they were only twenty-one years of age, to hold rectories and other livings, that divine service might not cease; the bishop having acquainted him, that there had been, and were,
above

above a thousand parishes void of incumbents in his diocese. One account says, that this infection did not only extend to the human race, but that the cattle were almost entirely swept off in many places.

In 1350, a great tournament was held here, at which were present Edward prince of Wales, commonly called the black prince, and many of the nobility; when the city made a grand entertainment for the prince and his retinue, at the expence of 37 l. 4s. 6d.

In 1351, the city was fined 100 marks, for using false weights and measures: and this practice was become so general, that the fines on that account, in the county of Norfolk only, amounted to more than 1000 l.

In 1353, the staples beyond the sea were recalled; and those of wool, leather, woolfels, and lead, fixed at the following places, viz. Newcastle upon Tyne, York, Lincoln, Norwich, Westminster, Canterbury, Chichester, Winchester, Exeter, and Bristol: and it was enacted, that all of the above commodities, designed for exportation, should be first brought to one of the said staples, and there be lawfully weighed by the standard; and the customs of the staple thereof paid, witnessed by bill, sealed with the seal of the mayor of the staple; and then carried to the ports belonging to the said staples; viz. from Norwich to Great Yarmouth, &c. and according to this statute, the mayor of the staple here had a salary of 20 l. per ann. and the two constables of the staple 5 l. per ann. each. The seal

used by the mayor of the staple remains in the Guild-hall, and is an exceeding fine one: it hath a bust of the king, crowned; and on each side of his head a lion guardant, part of his royal arms; which lion from henceforward was added to the city arms, and placed under the castle: the circumscription is, S. EDW. REG. ANGL. AD. RECOGN. DEBITOR. APD. NORWYCVM. By the third chapter of this statute, it was made felony for any English, Welsh, or Irish merchant, to transport wool.

In 1355, the king commanded the bailiffs and commonalty of Norwich, to provide him 120 armed men, to attend him on his expedition into France.

In 1357 died Isabel, queen dowager of England; by whose death, the hundred pounds a year, paid her out of the fee-farm of the city, reverted to the crown; and the bailiffs became answerable to the exchequer for it.

In 1361 there happened a great dearth, attended by the plague: this was called the second pestilence. And on the 15th of January, in the same year, there arose so furious a storm of wind from the south-west, as to throw down the tower of the cathedral; which falling upon the choir, demolished great part of it: it raged violently for six or seven days, and was succeeded by a prodigious fall of rain, which occasioned incredible damage by inundations.

In 1364, the king directed his writ to the Londoners, commanding them not to trouble the citizens

zens of Norwich, for any tolls, customs, &c. in London, they being exempted therefrom, by his own grants and charters, as well as by those of his royal ancestors.

In 1365, the king forbid the payment of Peter-pence. This tax had been levied ever since 720, when Ina, king of the West Saxons, settled it for the maintenance of an English school at Rome; and for the entertainment, and lodging of the kings and princes of the same nation, who should visit the tombs of the apostles*.

In 1368, it was ordained by universal consent, that the bailiffs should be yearly chosen at Michaelmas, by the bon-gentz, or commons of the city; who were, then also, to choose twenty-four out of their own body, as a common-council, to represent them at all assemblies. At the same time the city treasurers were to be elected; and the auditors; whose office was, to audit all accounts yearly, within eight days after St. Michael. And it was further agreed, that no common seal should be set to any matter, without the consent of the twenty-four, and of the principal persons among the commons; that no business of consequence be transacted without them; that all business relating to the city be done at the city expence; and that the keys of the treasury, chests, gates, and turrets, be

* The tax laid by Ina, was a penny on every family in the kingdoms of Westex and Suffex; and was called Romefcot. Offa, king of Mercia, some time after imposed the same tax on the kingdoms of Mercia and East Anglia, under the name of Peter-pence.

be delivered by the old bailiffs to the new ones, on Michaelmas-day, or within four days after.

This year the bailiffs received a writ, commanding them to attend in person at London, to inform the king and council, what was best to be done, in relation to the security of the shipping of the kingdom.

In 1369, the plague broke out afresh, and carried off great numbers of people very suddenly.

And this year, notwithstanding all the endeavours of the citizens of Norwich to hinder it, Yarmouth was made a staple town.

In 1371, the citizens were commanded to furnish the king with a good barge, sufficiently equipped for war, to serve against his enemies, the French and Spaniards.

About this time, the bailiffs and commons granted to Robert Poppingeay, all their tenements and gardens in the parish of St. Mary in the Marsh: part of this grant was afterwards the Popinjay inn.

Edward III. died on the 21st of June, 1377: he was the first king that in his title used the words 'post conquestum,' to distinguish the Edwards after the conquest from those before. There were several coins of his struck here, which are still extant.

At this time the whole fee-farm rent of the city amounted to 129l. 5s. 10d. of which 2l. 14s. 4d. was for the fee of the castle lately purchased: and because the bailiffs of the city, by virtue of their office, always paid the whole rent, they were allowed, towards discharging it, all the tolls of the bakers,

bakers, butchers, fullers, tanners, dyers, and fishermen; the customs of the river Wensum; the tolls of the fish and beast markets; the rents of the shops; the new increased rents; all the small farms or old rents; the tronage, or custom paid for weighing at the public beam in the market; and other rents and customs: but all were not sufficient to answer the sum. By the book of customs, every thousand herrings brought to the city, by land or water, paid 1d. every last 10d. every hundred of salt-fish 2d. every hundred of mackerel a halfpenny; a cart 2d. &c.

Frequent disputes having arisen, concerning what persons were liable to the tax for repairing the gates, walls, and towers of the city, which the bailiffs and commons had power to levy, as often as occasion required; the king, by his writ, commanded, that all houses in the liberty of Norwich should, for the future, always pay towards it.

In the custom-book before mentioned, the number of battlements on the city walls are thus entered: from the river, to Cossany or St. Martin's at the Oak gate, 112 battlements, and 10 upon the gate; and from thence on the walls and towers to St. Augustine's gate 69, and upon that gate 12; from thence, to Fibridge or Magdalen gate, on the walls and towers are 153, and upon that gate 13; and from thence, to Barr or Pockthorp gate, on the wall and towers 178, and on that gate 10; (those from that gate to the river, being about 40 in number, are omitted; as perhaps, at the time of this return, they might not

not be quite finished); from thence, the river passes by the east side of the city, 'till we come to the dungeon or round tower, standing on the opposite side of the river to Conisford gate, where was the old boom*, on which tower are 12 battlements; and on the tower and wall to Conisford gate are 26, and on that gate 14; and from thence, to Berstrete gate are 150, and on that gate, and the wicket adjoining to it 27; thence, to Nedham or St. Stephen's gate, on the towers and walls, are 307, and on that gate and wicket 38; thence, to St. Giles's gate, on the walls and towers, are 229, and on that gate and wicket 15; thence, to Westwick or St. Bennet's gate are 100, and on the gate and wicket 16; from thence, to Heigham gate, on the walls and towers, 79, and on that gate 4; and thence, to the river, on the wall and tower, 16; in all 1630.

Richard II. in the first year of his reign, A. D. 1377, granted the city a charter, confirming all its former ones, and containing the following additional clauses; 'that if there be any customs contained therein, which they have not hitherto used; 'nevertheless for the future, on any occasion, they 'may freely use them, without having a non-user 'or dis-user pleaded against them: and further, 'that no privileged person or persons, having the 'king's protection, shall by virtue thereof enter the 'city, and purvey † or bargain for any victuals 'before-

* A bar of wood, laid cross a river, to hinder vessels passing.

† Purveyor, was an officer

appointed by the king, to purchase provisions for his use, in any part of the kingdom, at a stated price.

‘ before-hand ; whether it be for the king’s own use,
 ‘ or for any voyage to be made for his service ; and
 ‘ that all such fore-hand bargains shall be intirely
 ‘ void, and such protections not pleadable in the
 ‘ city.’

And whereas the privileges of Norwich were, by their ancient charters, granted to be as ample as those of the city of London ; the citizens, on their petition, obtained an exemplification, under the broad seal, of the last charter made to that city, bearing date this year ; in which all former charters granted thereto, are recited, by way of *inspeximus**.

In 1378, the citizens petitioned the parliament, to empower them to prohibit all strangers from selling any merchandise by retail, within their liberties, on pain of forfeiture : and it was accordingly enacted ; ‘ that if the customs and usages of the
 ‘ city of Norwich, heretofore used, or hereafter to
 ‘ be used, be difficult in any part, or defective ;
 ‘ or, that the same require any amendment, on
 ‘ account of new matter arising, whereof remedy
 ‘ was not before that time provided ; that then the
 ‘ bailiffs, with the consent of twenty-four citizens,
 ‘ of the same city, so therefore yearly to be chosen,
 ‘ or the greater part of them, shall, from henceforth,
 ‘ have power to ordain, and provide, from time to
 N time,

* A name given to particular letters patent, being the same with exemplification ; and called *inspeximus*, because they begin thus ; Rex omnibus, &c. *Inspeximus irrotulamentum quarund. literar. patent. &c.*

THE HISTORY OF

‘ time, such remedies as are most agreeable to faith
 ‘ and reason, and most profitable to the good and
 ‘ peaceable government of the citizens, and of other
 ‘ our faithful subjects repairing thereto, as to them
 ‘ shall seem best: so as such ordinances be for the
 ‘ benefit of the king and his people.’ On the pas-
 sing this act, orders were given for all goods to be
 landed at the public city stathe; and the tolls and
 customs were settled: which all foreigners, as well
 as citizens, were obliged to pay.

This year the tax raised on the citizens amounted
 to 128 l. 4s. 8d. and the whole income of the city
 to 374 l. 17s. 4d. halfpenny; out of which they
 lent the king 191 l. and paid to the two city coun-
 sellors 20s. each, as a yearly salary; to the treasur-
 ers 20s. each; to the town-clerk his salary of 40s.
 to two esquires, the king’s messengers, who came
 to borrow 400 marks of the city for the king, 10
 marks; to the duke of Lancaster, (who had proba-
 bly been instrumental in obtaining their charters,
 &c.) 10 l. to the waits, when the said duke visited
 the city, 20s. to the admiral of the city, for clean-
 ing and adorning his barge, five marks; to John
 Staples, for keeping the same, 40s. and to John
 Hankere, for the same 13s. 4d. and to Bartholemew
 de Appelyerd, for the commission to him directed
 for the admiralty, 10s. besides the great expenses they
 were at, in fitting out their barge for the admiral.
 This jurisdiction, it seems, belonged to the city ever
 since it was a sea-port; and continues so to do; there
 being very late commissions for exercising the admi-
 ralty jurisdiction here.

In 1379, the citizens leased St. Stephen's gate, with all the houses and conveniences thereto belonging, to John de Taseburgh for life, paying yearly therefore, to the bailiffs and commonalty, one launce and target, handfomely adorned.

The king, this year, granted the city another charter, which is beautifully adorned with gold and various colours, and dated at Westminster, February 15. In it, all former charters are confirmed, and recited at large; together with the clauses in the act passed at Gloucester, and mentioned p. 89.

In 1379, it was ordained by act of parliament, that if any alnager seal faulty cloths, the cloth should be forfeited to the king, and the sealer lose his office. This act was afterwards confirmed in 1383. And in 1393, it was also further enacted, that no alnager should have any sure or certain estate in his office: and that, for the increase of trade, all single worsteds might be carried abroad, wherever the makers pleased.

In 1380, the parliament granted the king a new (and at that time strange) subsidy, by way of poll-tax; to be levied on every person above fifteen years of age, monks and nuns not excepted. This tax was the occasion of various discontents amongst the people; which the year following broke out into open rebellion: for the commons thinking themselves aggrieved thereby, and galled with the oppression of the lords and gentry, rose in many parts of the kingdom, with a full resolution of forcing the king to make them free, and release them from the state of villanage under which they groaned.

This infurrection first began in Kent, on account of some indecencies, offered by a collector of the poll tax, to the daughter of one Walter a tiler; for which the father, with a hammer, knocked out his brains. The common people applauded the action; and promising to stand by him, he soon found himself at the head of 100,000 men; who declared him their chief, and protector of the poor: they were presently joined by one John Ball, an excommunicated priest; who, by his seditious discourses, greatly inflamed the minds of the common people; telling them, that all men, being sons of Adam, there ought to be no distinction amongst them; and that the great difference in men's present estate, was directly contrary to Christian liberty: the favourite subject, on which he most commonly preached, was comprised in the following distich.

When Adam delv'd, and Eve span,
Who was then a gentleman?

These risings were universal throughout the kingdom: the populace of Suffolk assembled themselves together, to the amount of 50,000 men; and committed numberless outrages and barbarities: Sir John Cavendish, lord chief justice, and sir John Cambridge, prior of Bury fell a sacrifice to their fury; and so unbounded, was their rage against every kind of literature, that they burnt, and destroyed all the ancient charters, in the abbey of Bury, and the university of Cambridge. Another body of rebels, composed of the people
of

of Thetford, Lynn, and Yarmouth proceeded to Norwich, where they were headed by one John Litester, a dyer, an inhabitant of that city; who stiled himself king of the commons. In their progress, they seized, and carried along with them, all the gentlemen they happened of; some of whom Litester obliged to serve him at table on their bended knees; Sir Stephen de Hales, being a very comely person, was appointed his chief carver. The citizens treated with the rebels; and advanced them a large sum of money to preserve the town from fire and plunder: but notwithstanding this, Litester entered the city, and demolished the houses of the noblemen and lawyers, as Tiler had before done in London; pretending that they were not comprised in the agreement.

Henry le Spencer, bishop of Norwich, a man as remarkable for his bravery, as for his charity, lenity and liberality, hearing of these commotions, set out from his manor house of Burleigh near Stamford, and entered the city with what forces he could collect: from thence he marched directly to Northwalsingham, where the rebels lay strongly encamped; and putting himself at the head of his army, he briskly attacked them in their trenches, which he soon carried; and after a severe contest, obtained a complete victory. A dreadful slaughter of the rebels ensued: Litester, their king, with the principal leaders were taken prisoners, and soon after received the just reward of their crimes.

The Kentish and Essex rebels having dispersed themselves on the death of their leader, Wat Tyler, who was slain by William Walworth, mayor of London, at the head of his followers; the troubles were soon appeased; and in a much happier way than could have been expected. This insurrection was called the rebellion of the levellers, and such indeed they truly were, for they not only endeavoured to level men's purses, but their understandings also; as ill brooking, that any should be wiser, as wealthier, than themselves.

In 1382, a conspiracy was formed here, in order to raise a fresh rebellion; which was to have been opened with the murder of the bishop, and all the nobles and gentry of the county: the time and place of rising was fixed at St. Faith's fair: but the matter being happily discovered by one of the conspirators, the rest of them were taken, and justly suffered.

This year a very pestilential fever broke out in many parts of the county, and very extraordinary inundations happened in the fens: and on the 20th of June, a violent shock of an earthquake was felt here.

At the great assembly held on Holy-rood day, it was ordered, that no person should fish in the river Wensum, within the liberties of the city, with drag nets, &c. unless between St. Peter ad vincula and Michaelmas, on the penalty of losing their fish and nets, and being fined by the bailiffs; and no drag was to have stones of above two pounds weight hung to the lower line.

In 1383, the king and queen visited Norwich, and were received with great pomp. And in 1385, the earls of Nottingham and Suffolk, and the duke of Lancaster paid the city the same honour, and were nobly treated: the earls business was it seems, to solicit a loan for the king, towards carrying on the war against the Scots; for which purpose, the city gave him 50 marks, and lent him 150 more; they also gave 50 marks to the duke, towards carrying on his own foreign affairs; and expended 10 marks on the earl of Nottingham; and presented the earl of Suffolk with two pipes of wine, and a last of oats.

The city ditches were now thoroughly cleaned, and a general survey was taken of the walls and towers, and a return thereupon made; by which it appeared that they were all in sufficient repair, and that each of the towers had three, six, or eight men as a constant guard: in this return, Heigham gate is called *porta inferni*, or hell gate; it being the lowest next the river on that side the city: and from henceforward wardens were yearly chosen to inspect the walls, gates, towers, and river, and to see that they were kept in proper repair.

In 1386, on the French threatening to invade England, the king sent his privy seal to the city, commanding them to fortify their town, and to lend him 500 marks; upon which, they chose the bishop their governor, and appointed a council, consisting of eight citizens to assist him; and as to the loan, upon application to the king's council, they got it reduced to 100 l.

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An order was also this year passed, that every citizen who absented himself from the great assembly, yearly held at the chapel of St. Mary in the fields, for the choice of bailiffs, should pay a fine of 40d. And in 1388, another order was made, that no citizen should buy any worsteds of the country weavers, within the liberties of the city, but at the worsted-celde (shop or stall) only, under the penalty of 40s. for the first offence; 4l. for the second; and loss of liberty for the third: and two wardens were chosen, to see that due obedience was paid to it.

In 1389, on John of Gaunt, duke of Lancaster's arrival here, at Easter, the city resolved to pay him the highest honours in their power; for which purpose, proclamation was made, that every one, who was of degree sufficient to serve as bailiff, and did not ride to meet him, should forfeit forty pence; and every common freeman, twenty pence.

In 1390, after much sollicitation and great expense, the wool staple was fixed here. The following year the duke of Gloucester came hither, and was met by the citizens on horseback: and every man who was absent from his livery, was fined two shillings.

A great mortality at this time broke out, which lasted twelve months, occasioned by the people's eating unwholesome food; and this not so much from a scarcity of corn as of money to purchase it: it raged greatly in Norfolk and many other counties; and was nearly in degree equal to the great pestilence.

In

In 1392, for the sum of 100 l. the king licensed the bailiffs and commonalty, to receive, in mortmain, to the use of the city, three messuages, eighteen shops, forty-two stalls, and fifty-four shillings of yearly rent in Norwich, held of the king in burgage; and to apply the profits thereof to the repair of the city walls, towers, and ditches; or for any other purpose, tending to the easement of the poor and middling sort of citizens.

In 1395, the Danish pirates infesting this coast, the inhabitants of Norwich, Yarmouth, and the other maritime places of the county of Norfolk, fitted out a number of ships, and engaged them; but were defeated with great loss.

In 1397, it was ordered, that no wool should be sold in any place, but in the shops in the wool-market only.

The bailiffs this year accounted for several sums of money, expended for the honour, and common profit of the city: amongst which are the following; paid to Thomas Spynk 40s. for procuring a writ against sir Leonard de Kerdeston, who endeavoured to try actions, arising in the liberties, in other courts; and to John Yelverton, the city council in that affair, 40s. paid also to the king's justices of assize, for the city, 18s. 5d.* and for their horses oats 14s. for making the king's herring pies 9s. 10d. for the coroner's expenses in going to Bokenham ferry, to sit upon two women drowned there, 13s. it being within the city liberty; and for a grand breakfast

* The assizes were then held at Abraham's hall.



breakfast made at Norwich, for sir Edmund de Thorp, sir Robert de Berneye, sir Ralph de Shelton, sir John White, knights; the sheriff of Norfolk, the mayor of Lynn, and many nobility and gentry of the city and county, 34s. 7d.

In 1398, the city was taxed, in order to raise a sum of money to present to the king, who was expected here: and orders were given, that every man should ride with the bailiffs, in his best apparel, to meet him; that every one of bailiff's rank should have two persons, at the the least, to attend him, in good liveries, under the penalty of 5l. that every substantial citizen, refusing to ride, should forfeit 40s. every freeman 20s. and every servant and apprentice 6s. 8d. and that every person, not able to go himself, should send some one in his room. Six assistants to the bailiffs were likewise appointed: three for the court, and three for the commons. The design of all this parade, and the present they intended for the king, was so far to ingratiate themselves with him, as to induce him to grant the request they now determined to make, of a charter, empowering them to elect a mayor, &c. instead of bailiffs: but as the king did not come, there was nothing done 'till the following year; when they applied to the duke of Lancaster about it, who frankly told them, that it would not bear then; and that they must wait a more favourable opportunity: but soon after the duke died.

This year brother John, abbot of Wendling, let to the city the messuage and quay in Conisford, belonging

longing to his convent, lying between the land of lady Audele on the south; and the church-yard of St. Clement in Conisford, and the tenement belonging to the city, formerly Hugh Holland's, on the north; the king's highway west; and the river Wenfum east; with the advowson of St. Clement's church there, and 6s. 8d. rent; for 600 years, at the annual rent of 13s. 4d.

In 1399, the bailiffs, having put the city into proper posture of defence, openly declared for Henry duke of Lancaster, son and heir of John of Gaunt, the late deceased duke, their especial friend. On this declaration, Henry gave them strong assurances, that whenever it was in his power, the charter they so earnestly desired, for electing a mayor, &c. should be granted them: and he was as good as his word, as will appear afterwards. The great connection there was between John of Gaunt, and the city, arose through means of sir William Norwich, knight; a great follower and friend of the duke's, and the occasion of his frequent visits to, and the great value he always expressed for it.

In the first year of Henry IV. sir Thomas de Erpingham, knight, a Norfolk man, warden of the Cinque-Ports, and lord chamberlain, obtained the king's charter, dated at Westminster the 6th of February, 1399, confirming all the former charters ever granted to the city. The charter itself is lost, but is inserted in every inspeximus, from the reign of Henry V.

At an assembly, held on the Sunday preceding the feast of St. Valentine; at which the bailiffs, and seventy-four of the principal citizens were present; letters testimonial were signed and sealed with the common seal of the city, at the request of sir Thomas Erpingham, relative to some certain matters charged on the famous Henry le Spencer, bishop of Norwich. This was done to oblige the king, who suspected that the bishop was engaged in a conspiracy to dethrone him, in hopes thereby of obtaining their new charter; an object they were so strongly bent upon, that they made no scruple of sacrificing that very man, who had so lately saved them, their houses, goods, and families, from death and devastation. But, notwithstanding the testimonial, the bishop cleared himself, and remained unmolested.

In 1400, William Blackhommere, Margery his wife, and Jeffery de Bixton, gave to the city all that messuage, with the lime-kilns, garden, house, and shops, in the parishes of St. Edward and St. Peter Southgate; lying between Hildebrond's hospital north; St. Peter's church-yard and glebe lands south; the street east; and the prioress of Carrow's land, called Boteler's-hills, now Butterhills, west; the revenue thereof to be appropriated, for ever, towards repairing the banks of the river Wensum.

In 1402, the grand affair of procuring the new charter, took up the greatest part of the citizens time; but as nothing could be done without the concurrence of bishop Spencer, who had fully con-
vinced

vinced the king and council of his integrity and loyalty, notwithstanding the charge laid against him by the city; they at last found means to soften him, and to obtain his promise, that he would not oppose them in this their favourite point. All obstacles being now removed; they offered to lend the king 1000 marks; which so far obliged him, that they were given to understand, that they might draw up a charter as large and full as they could devise, and the king would pass it. This was accordingly done, and the new charter passed, bearing date at Westminster, January 28, 1403. In the preamble it is recited; ‘That, by reason
 ‘ of the great affection that we have and bear to
 ‘ our city of Norwich, and the citizens, and com-
 ‘ monalty of the said city; and in consideration
 ‘ of the good behaviour of the citizens of the
 ‘ said city towards us; and of the voluntary ser-
 ‘ vice by them in time past often given us; be-
 ‘ ing desirous to advantage the said city, and in
 ‘ a special manner to provide for the profit of
 ‘ those citizens, their heirs, and successors, of our
 ‘ special grace we have granted; that the city,
 ‘ and all the land within the city, and the liber-
 ‘ ty of the same, with the suburbs, and their ham-
 ‘ lets and bounds, and all the land round the li-
 ‘ berty thereof, (the old shire-house only excepted)
 ‘ shall be, and are hereby separated from the county
 ‘ of Norfolk, and altogether exempted therefrom,
 ‘ both by land and water; and are hereby made a
 ‘ county of, and by themselves, which shall be for
 ‘ ever called; The county of the city of Norwich.’

By

By this charter, the office of bailiff is extinguished, and the citizens have power given them, to elect a mayor yearly; and two sheriffs for the city and its county: which mayor, as soon as elected, and every his successors on their election, shall be the king's escheator* in the city and liberties thereof. The sheriffs are to be sworn by the mayor in the Guildhall, and their names returned into chancery. The escheator and sheriff of Norfolk, are not to enter the city or county of Norwich. The sheriffs of Norwich are to hold their county court, from month to month; and have the same liberties and privileges, as other sheriffs of counties have, and are to receive all profits thereof, as the bailiffs of the city heretofore used to do. No citizens are to plead, or be impleaded, for or concerning any lands, in any court, out of the bounds of the city and its county; nor for any bargain made, or fault committed within those bounds: neither are the king's justices to enter, or concern themselves in any thing thereto belonging, but all shall be done before the mayor and sheriffs, according to the law and custom of the city. The steward and marshal of the king's household, are not to intermeddle, either in his majesty's presence or absence; unless in cases of transgressions, bargains, contracts, and debts in the king's household, or concerning those which are members of the household. The citizens and commonalty,

* An officer, who observes fall to the king, and certifies the escheats, or forfeitures, that them into the exchequer.

monalty, are to have cognizance of all pleas, assizes, novel disseisin, and mort de aunceter*, of all lands and tenements in the city and its county; as well as those pleas that are triable before the justices of both benches, justices of assize, or justices itinerant; all which, shall be tried before the mayor and sheriffs, in the Guildhall. The deputy of the escheator and sheriffs, who must be deputed under the city seal, is yearly to account with the exchequer for the profits, but shall not be compelled to go out of the city therefore. The mayor, sheriffs, citizens, and commonalty, have full power and liberty, to appropriate and make the best of all gates, bridges, and waste grounds, throughout the whole liberties, to enable them to repair the gates and walls. The mayor is to try all causes, where the sheriffs shall any way be charged with doing wrong; and hath power to relieve the oppressed, by punishing the sheriffs, according to the nature of the offence. The mayor, for the time being, is always a justice of the peace, by his office, and shall yearly choose four others to assist him, who shall likewise be justices; and no justice of the county of Norfolk, or any other justice of peace whatever, shall exercise his office in the city or its county, either by land or water. The mayor is not to determine any case of felony, without the king's special mandate. The citizens are to have all fines, issues, forfeitures, and amerciaments, accruing

* A writ, which lies where a man's ancestor dieth seized of lands, and a stranger entereth upon them.

accruing by virtue of the office of justice of the peace. The mayor, sheriffs, &c. are to have all victuals forfeited by law, as bread, wine, ale, and all other things, not belonging to merchandise. The mayor, sheriffs, &c. are to have the sword, which the king gave them, or some other, carried before them, with the point erect; in the presence of all lords or nobles of the realm, whether they be of the blood royal or not; our presence, and the presence of our heirs, only excepted. The sergeants at mace, belonging to the mayor and sheriffs, are to carry gold or silver maces, gilt or ungilt, with the king's arms thereon, both in the king's presence, as also in the presence of the queen consort, or queen mother, in the city and its county, as their proper sergeants at arms. Neither the stewards, marshal, nor the clerk of the market of the king's household, shall ever exercise any jurisdiction in the city or county; or compel the citizens to answer them, any where out of their liberty. No purveyor, or provider of victuals, or other officer, shall purvey or take any victuals belonging to the citizens, without their free will; unless they be for the king's own use, taken at full price, and the money paid on delivery. The city coroners are to exercise in the liberties, the same privileges as other coroners, in the king's presence, or absence; as they for time immemorial have done. And, lastly, no damage is to arise to the city by reason of this change: but the mayor, sheriffs, citizens, and commonalty, hereby have, and may use

use and enjoy, all rights, privileges, and liberties, in the same manner as the bailiffs, citizens, and commonalty, their predecessors, had, used, and enjoyed before this alteration.

This charter was received with great demonstrations of joy: and in pursuance thereof, the citizens, on May 1, 1403, elected William Appelyerd their first mayor. The bailiffs held their office 'till the Michaelmas following: when Robert Brasier and John Daniel, two of them, were chosen sheriffs*.

In 1404, at an assembly, held for settling the method of electing sheriffs, it was ordered; that, for the future, there should be eighty persons elected yearly to attend at all common assemblies, in a place by themselves; and that the majority of them should name three persons yearly, for sheriffs; and declare their names to the commons, who might refuse any of the three they pleased: and if they liked none of them, the eighty were to nominate three more; and this to be done, 'till they had named three, whom the commons approved of: and

P

then

* When the charter first came down, the seal of the bailiffs was disused, and a new one made: in the midst is our blessed Saviour arisen from his tomb, with a glory about his head; his right hand is held up towards heaven, and in his left is a globe, with the cross on its top: he stands in the portal of a Gothic building, having over it the arms of France and England quartered: on his

right hand is a shield, with the city arms, viz. a triple-tower'd castle, and under it, a lion passant-guardant; and on his left hand, on another shield, is a plain cross, the arms of St. George, or the English flag. The circumscription is,

Sigillum officii majoratus Sivitatis Norwici.

The seal of the office of mayoralty of the city of Norwich.

then the town-clerk, and some of the eighty, were to report the three persons, so approved of, to the mayor and chief men, and the mayor was to name one of them for sheriff; and the chief men another: and this was the constant form of elections for some years.

In 1405, an act passed, prohibiting all persons, of what estate or condition soever, to put out either son or daughter as an apprentice, within any city or borough in the realm, except he had land of the value of 20s. a year at least: but it was repealed in the reign of Henry VII. on account of the great prejudice the cities, and this in particular, sustained thereby.

In 1406, his majesty honoured the city with a visit.

In 1409, through the interest of Sir Thomas Erpingham, a grant was made to the mayor, sheriffs, and commonalty of Norwich, for a certain term of years, of the alnage and survey of all manner of worsteds made in Norwich and the county of Norfolk: by which grant, none were to be sold without having their seal affixed thereto, for which their fee was a halfpenny for each piece; and all peices short of measure were to be forfeited; half to the king, and half to the city. The alnage, and sealing, was this year let to two citizens, at twenty marks rent. And in 1448, the city got a renewal of this grant from Henry VI.

This year the city lent the king 500 marks; 300 of which were taken out of the common stock, and the

the remainder was raised by a public tax. This sum was afterwards repaid.

In 1410, the city allowed Richard Kolys, the king's fergeant at arms, all his expenses; and gave him besides five marks, as a reward, for his coming from London to Norwich, and for going to Yarmouth, Northwalsam, Thetford, Wigenhall, and Lynn, to make proclamation of the late statute concerning worsted cloths, and of the alnage granted to the city; that no one might pretend ignorance, and sell their cloths without being sealed.

In 1413, 1 Henry V. the city was in great confusion, occasioned by the disputes between the commons, and the mayor and his council; relating to the mode of electing mayors, sheriffs, and other officers of the corporation, and the exercise of some other powers, granted by the late charter. During this contest, a sudden and terrible fire broke out, which laid waste and destroyed the whole convent of the preaching friers*, with every thing belonging to them; and did prodigious damage to that part of the city: this misfortune, together with the exhausted state of the city treasury, owed to the expenses these contentions had occasioned, induced all parties to wish for a reconciliation; which was effected by the good offices of sir Robert Berney, Knt. John Lancaster, William Paston, and others; and a final agreement sealed by the mayor, sheriffs and com-

P 2

monalty

* St. Andrew's hall was the church of the friers preachers; which, with the adjoining convent, (part of which is now the workhouse) was rebuilt after this fire.

monalty, on the 14th of Feb. an abstract of which here followeth. ‘ In the name of the Trinyte, Father, Sone and Holigost, three persons, and one God in mageste, principal and speciall avowe † of Norwiche Cite and of all the commonaute, in the honour of whom, our moder chirche is founded and halwed, on the day of Seynt Valentyn martir, whan creatures through love of kynde, as it is feid, chossen her mate, the secound yeer of kyng Henry V. after the conquest, in the time of John Biskelee, Mayr, Henry Rafman and Thomas Cok Shirreves, be assent of the good commonalte of the Cite of Norwich, the whiche Cite be diffensions, traverfes, variaunces and discordes upon diverse articles of long time hangying, hath been divided, dissoyled and in point to ha be destroyed. Nowe at holi preyere and mediacion of Seynt Valentyn in whos day the Cite choossee be love to make pees, unite and accord, poore and riche, to be oon in hert, love and charite; nevermore fro this tyme forth to be dissevered by the help and grace of the holi Trinyte her speciall avowe, but standynge full unyted and accorded in the articles underwritten, upon the tenure that folwith hereaftir, that is for to seyne, in this forme.’

The mayor shal hereafter be always chosen in the Guild hall on St. Philip and St. James’s day (May 1.) The old mayor and twenty-four * are to be present, and

† Patron, or advocate,

* These were the mayor’s council, in whose place the aldermen were afterwards appoin-

ted. They are sometimes called venerabiles viri, bon-gents, con-citizens, and probi homines.

and all the common-council : and each of the twenty-four absenting himself forfeits 2s. and each of the common-council 1s. The recorder, or his deputy, is to make a speech, explaining the cause of their assembling: and then he, with the mayor and twenty-four, are to withdraw into another room; and the speaker of the commons shall then say : ‘ Sirres and
‘ friends, for the love of Jesu Christ in proceeding
‘ of this election present, behave yow and rewle
‘ yow, goodli and honestli; and levith not for love,
‘ haate, ne dread, that ye chesen and nemelen two
‘ sufficiant persones for the office of Meyr, such as
‘ ben honourable and profitable for the Cite; of whiche
‘ iche of hem hath ben Meyr or shirreve of the Cite,
‘ and of whiche nethir hath ben Meyr thre yers
‘ aforn.’

And he that hath most voices of the people in the hall, shall be one; and he that hath most voices next, shall be second. And the speaker, and fix of the common-council, shall write down their names, and return them to the mayor, &c. in the chamber; after which notification made, the fix common-council shall deliver the bill to the common clerk, who, together with the recorder and common speaker, shall keep it: and to these three persons, the mayor, alone, shall come in proper person, to a part of the same chamber; and to them shall secretly name one of the two persons, which of them he will have for the office of mayor; and then every one of the twenty-four shall do the like; and which ever of the two have the most voices, shall

shall be admitted for mayor the next year; 'ac-
 'comptyng the Meyre's voyce for two voyces, if
 'travers falle*.' And in like manner, if it so
 happen in the hall, that the common speaker can-
 not rightly tell who has most voices; then, he, and
 the common council, shall go and inform the may-
 or, who shall call together the common-council,
 into a room by themselves; and there shall traverse
 or try the variance, in the same form as hath been,
 and is now used in London, &c. And after the
 election, the mayor, sheriffs, and twenty-four, shall
 come down to the commons in the hall; and the
 mayor being seated, the recorder, or deputy, shall
 declare the person chosen to the commons; and if
 the person be present, the mayor shall place him
 at his right hand.

The sheriffs shall be chosen on the day of the
 nativity of our Lady, (September the 8th) in the
 following manner: the mayor, sheriffs, the twenty-
 four, and the fixty of the common-council, and all
 other citizens, shall freely come, as to the election
 of the mayor; and then the mayor, and twenty-
 four of his council, with the sheriffs, shall go into
 the chamber; and by a majority choose one sheriff,
 'suche as thei will answer fore;' and the mayor
 to have a double voice as aforesaid. The recorder,
 or deputy, shall then declare to the commons, the
 name of the person elected; and the mayor shall
 command them to go and choose 'a concetezyn
 'dwellyng

* If the votes be equal: in which case, but for this expedient, a traverse or trial must have ensued.

‘ dwellyng with in the Cite,’ for the other sheriff,
‘ fuche one for whom thei will answer, for the yere
‘ than next ensuyng;’ and the commons in the hall
shall immediately proceed to election, and when
they have chosen by majority, shall, by their speak-
er, inform the mayor, sheriffs, and twenty-four,
whom they have chosen: and if any variance fall
among the commons, on their election, it shall be
tried by the fixty common-council; as in case of
variance happening in the election of a mayor:
and he that has once served the office of sheriff,
shall never be elected again.

The election of the twenty-four con-citizens, for
the mayor’s council, shall yearly be on the same
four days, on which the common-council shall be
chosen in the different wards, as follows: the mayor
shall say, ‘ Sires, ye hav be poynt of charter,
‘ that ye shull yerli chesen XXIIII concitezyns, for
‘ the Meris counfeyl; and notwithstanding that it is
‘ acorded, and consentid, and be composicon made,
‘ the names of the XXIIII shall be nemelid to yow
‘ at this day; that is to seyn, VI sufficiant men
‘ for Conesford, if there ben so many sufficiant
‘ in the same warde, to be of the nombre of the
‘ XXIIII; and if there be not so many sufficiant
‘ in the same warde, it shall be lessul to the warde,
‘ to chese the nombre that lakkith there, in other
‘ wardes atte large in the Citee:’ and so six persons
for each ward. ‘ And thes XXIIII thus chosen,
‘ shull stonde perpetuelli in the Cite of Norwich,
‘ as thei don in London be ordinaunce made;’ ex-
cept

cept reasonable cause in any year be assigned; in which case the mayor may change such person, or put it to the vote of the ward, whether the cause of change be reasonable; and if it be found so, then the ward to choose another. ‘ And if it seem
 ‘ to the Meyr, when the xxiiii ben thus chosen,
 ‘ that any of them be not sufficiant, that then shall
 ‘ the Meyr have chalenge, and restreyne, as the
 ‘ Meyr of London hath, be ordinaunce in the Cite
 ‘ of London.’ But these twenty-four can do nothing to bind or charge the city, without assent of the commonalty. No mayor, sheriff, or any of the twenty-four, shall wear, or take clothing, or livery, of any lord, while he be in office, on forfeiture of his freedom; or keep a common hostrie, or common alehouse.

The common council shall be elected thus. On the Monday next after Passion Sunday, the freemen and householders in Conisford ward, shall meet at the Guildhall, and choose twelve common-council for that year; viz. in Conisford six, and in Berstrete six: and, when chosen, their names shall be returned to the mayor, by four persons appointed by the whole ward; and then the mayor shall call the persons so chosen, and charge them to give good and true counsel, to the best of their knowledge, for the profit of the city; and to be constant in appearing to give such counsel. On the Tuesday, sixteen shall be chosen for Mancroft ward; viz. seven in St. Peter’s, five in St. Stephen’s, and four in St. Giles’s. On the Wednesday, twenty shall be chosen
 for

for Wymer ward; viz. seven in St. Gregory's, seven in St. Andrew's, and six in St. George's. And on the Thursday, twelve for the ward beyond the water; six for Cossany, and six for Fibridge. But if Lady-day fall on the Monday after Passion Sunday, then the first election to be on the working day next following. And these common-council shall have the same power with those of London. And the mayor shall be sworn, at his entering upon that office, to make all elections in the foregoing manner. All ordinances and constitutions, which the mayor and twenty-four agree to, must be delivered to the common-council by the recorder, or deputy; and if they pass them, they then become good and valid; but if they ask longer advice by their speaker, the mayor must grant it; and they may consult about them, and either reject, or pass them, as they see fit.

The mayor is to hold a court once a week, and oftener if he think needful; and to hear and determine all manner of injuries, or outrages, &c. done by any officers under him; and to have all pleas of apprentices and servants, as the chief justice of peace in the city; pleas and ransom of prisoners; pleas of debts; letters of payments; and all contracts made between merchant and merchant, or any other person beyond the seas; and all other pleas, and articles, which belong to the office of mayoralty; saving the profit that of right belongeth to the sheriff's office.

The recorder is to be sworn, before the mayor and his council, in a common assembly, to give him good and true counsel; but shall not be judge of the sheriffs court, in any thing that may be an hindrance to that of the mayor.

All pleas of rents, lands, tenements, inrolments, and recognifances, shall be before the mayor and sheriffs, in the mayor's court; reserving to the sheriffs their profits; and the fees, for entry of the inrolments, to the mayor's clerk. Assay of bread, &c. shall be made by the mayor and sheriffs, or one of them at least; and the fines shall be the sheriffs.

The mayor, and twenty-four, are to be clothed according to their estate; and all that have been mayors, shall wear their clothes furred, and lined, according to the season of the year; and shall attend the mayor on principal days, in their best array, to Christ church, to assemblies, and other places in the city; and if the mayor rideth, all that have been mayors shall ride, in their cloaks; and the other peers, in livery of suit, under the penalty of 20 l. and no bond-man shall be mayor or sheriff.

There shall be a common assembly always on Holy-crofs day, (May the 3d) when the new elect shall name two persons to bear the sword, of whom the assembly shall choose one to that office; and four persons for sergeants, and the assembly shall choose two of them; all which shall be officers for a year.

All the ordinances, for the time past, shall be examined by the mayor, sheriffs, twenty-four and sixty; and the good ones shall be confirmed, and the bad ones

ones rejected. And the assembly shall then choose the recorder, bellman, and dikkepere †; and the mayor, and twenty-four, shall choose a common clerk ‡, a coroner, two clavers §, and eight constables. And the fixty common-council shall choose a common speaker, one coroner, two clavers, and eight constables.

On St. Matthew's day, (Sept. 21) an assembly shall be annually held, when the mayor, and twenty-four, shall choose one chamberlain, one treasurer, two auditors ||, that are not accountable of the common goods, and three commoners, to be of council with the chamberlain; and the fixty common-council shall choose one chamberlain, one treasurer, one common sergeant, two auditors, not accountable of the common goods, and three commoners, to be of the chamberlain's council also; and they are to declare the city money, debts, &c. before they go off their offices.

Each craft in the city, shall choose yearly, freely and by themselves, two masters, and present them to the mayor; who, on the Monday next after the mayor's riding, shall be charged to make search, for that year, of all defaults in their craft; and present them to the mayor; and upon conviction, half the fines shall go to the sheriffs, and half to their craft: and if the mayor find the masters fault-

Q² ty,

† Keeper of the city ditches.

‡ Town-clerk.

§ Persons appointed to keep the keys of the chests, in which

the city money, seals, &c. are deposited.

|| Whose business is, to inspect and pass the chamberlain's accounts,

ty, he may discharge them; and if their craft neglect to name two more within eight days, the mayor may appoint them. Such crafts, as have searh in London, shall have searh in Norwich, in the same manner as is practised in London; except in the case of patents, charters, and grants. And if there be such crafts in Norwich, as are not in London, they shall choose two masters; and have the same privileges and powers, as the other crafts in Norwich have.

No foreigners that keep shop in Norwich, shall take any more apprentices, 'till they buy their freedom; except their own or wife's children. And no freeman shall take apprentices for less time than seven years, nor without enrolling them in the chamber, within a year and a day, before the mayor, on forfeiture of his freedom: and every apprentice, when his time be expired, shall be free, paying to the chamber a noble, and to the sheriffs the same sum. All that are now citizens shall, within a year and a day, be inrolled in the craft he follows, on forfeiture of his freedom; and all, hereafter made free, shall be inrolled under some craft; and the masters of that craft shall express their consent; and the chamber shall have 20s. and the craft 40d. or more, according to agreement with the chamberlains and their council.

The burgeses to serve in parliament shall be chosen by common assembly, and their names declared to the mayor, sheriffs, and their council, 'in pleyn shire,' in the Guildhall. And there shall be

be four men chosen in each ward, by common assembly; two of which are to assess, or lay the king's tax, and the other two to collect it.

This agreement, however full and plain, did not answer the end for which it was intended; for within a very short time, the commons exhibited articles to sir Thomas Erpingham, steward of the king's household, against the mayor, sheriffs, and twenty-four: which being laid before the king, he commanded, that the city should send two persons, one to be chosen by the mayor, sheriffs, and twenty-four, and the other by the commons; with full powers to conclude and settle all their differences, agreeable to the determination of himself and council. Matters being thus accommodated, the king granted them a new charter, dated July 21, in the fifth year of his reign; in which all former ones, and in particular his father's, are confirmed and recited at large; and the following liberties added.

‘Whereas, in former charters, there was no time fixed for choosing the mayor and sheriffs; by reason whereof, great disputes had arisen:’ the king, therefore, by these presents, empowers the citizens, and commonalty, to choose twenty-four of their fellow-citizens, aldermen*; which twenty-four shall be

* Aldermen are now only associates to the chief civil magistrate of a city, or town corporate: but, with the Saxons, alderman constituted one of the three degrees of nobility, and answered to earl amongst the

Danes. Lambard, in his *Archaionomia*, says, that the aldermen had the same dignity and power in cities, boroughs, walled towns, and castles, under the chief magistrate, as the provosts of the hundreds, and wapentakes

be aldermen for life ; and sixty other citizens, for the common-council of the city.

All citizens, dwelling in the city, may be present at the election of the mayor, which shall be held at the Guildhall, on May-day yearly ; and the major part of them shall choose two citizens, dwelling in the city, out of the twenty-four aldermen, both which have either been mayors before, provided three years have elapsed since their last serving ; or have served the office of sheriff of the said city ; of which two, the major part of the aldermen present, shall choose one for mayor by vote ; and if there be equal votes for one person, then the mayor shall have the casting vote.

Two sheriffs shall be elected yearly, on the day of the nativity of the virgin Mary ; one by the mayor and aldermen, and the other by the commons ; which two, so elected, shall continue in their office, from the day of St. Michael next following their election, for a whole year.

The sixty common-council shall be yearly elected out of the four wards ; viz. on the Monday in Easter week, twelve for Conisford ward ; on the Tuesday, sixteen for Mancroft ward ; on the Wednesday,

wapentakes had, in all England, under the earls or sheriffs of the counties : their office being, to keep inviolate the laws, liberties, rights, king's peace, and all the just, ancient, and approved customs of the realm, to the best of their power : and on any sudden emergency, to

order the mot-bell to be immediately rung, to call together the folk-mote. i. e. the people of their particular jurisdiction, to consult, and provide against such damages as might ensue ; and to repress every thing, any way tending to disturb the peace of the king, or his kingdom.

nesday, twenty for Wymer ward; and, on the Thursday, twelve for the northern, or ward beyond the water. All which shall be the common-council for the year ensuing, and have as great power and authority in the city, as the common-council of the city of London have, and enjoy there.

Of the twenty-four aldermen, six shall be for Conisford ward; six for Mancroft ward; six for Wymer ward; and six for the ward beyond the water. On the death of, or displacing any alderman for reasonable cause, the mayor shall summon the ward to the Guildhall, to choose another in his room, out of the most worthy and able citizens dwelling in the city.

If any laws, customs, and ordinances, heretofore made or used, be defective, or difficult to be understood; or if any matter arise, not provided for by the laws or ordinances in being; the mayor and aldermen, or the major part of them, with the consent and approbation of the major part of the common-council, shall have full power to apply any remedy, agreeable to conscience and reason, for the common profit of the city, and of those who resort thither; which ordinances so made, they may put in execution by themselves, or their officers.

A charter was, at the same time, granted to St. George's guild, or company; by which their ridings and grand processions were regulated and augmented. This guild, with the ancient crafts, or companies, of the city, made a very splendid appearance on all public occasions. The companies were
then

then on the same footing, as those of the city of London now are; but not being incorporated by charter, they have been declining ever since the time of Henry VIII. though some of the trades still continue as a fraternity, and choose wardens among themselves to this day.

It was further ordered, that the chamberlains should appoint the colour of the gowns, &c. each company should appear in; this formerly was under the direction of the particular wardens; and that all crafts, that will, be clad in liveries, after the manner of the London companies; and that the craft or company of which the mayor is a member, follow immediately after the mayor, and every one of them attend him to the cathedral on Hallowmas, Christmas and Twelfth day; and at other times at the mayor's pleasure: and that every company hold the assemblies of their crafts four times every year, 'and kepe the worship of their avowe
' in due place, and ride on their principal avowe's
' day, in livery and honoure.'

Thus was the peace of the city settled, on a much better and more honourable foundation, than ever it had been before; and a charter obtained, granting the same form of government and ordinances as the city of London possessed: an object which the citizens always had in view from their first incorporation. The charges of this charter were upwards of 100 l. which was ordered to be taken out of the common stock.

In 1417, the king, before his setting out for France, borrowed 1000 marks of the city; and pledged his coronet for the payment.

In 1423, 2 Henry VI. a commission was directed to the mayor and other justices, assigned by the king, to hold sessions of oyer and terminer, and general gaol delivery, for the city and its county: these commissions were usually taken out when the gaols began to be full of prisoners, and were continued 'till the judges circuits were regularly settled.

In the 6th year of the king, a commission of this kind was directed to the mayor, sheriffs, and four justices of the peace to be nominated by the mayor and others; before whom the two coroners for the city were summoned to appear; together with the sixteen constables for the four wards; the two constables for the liberty of Holmestrete; and the two for that of Spytelond; the bailiff of the prior's liberties in those parts; and also four men out of each ward, whose office probably was to serve on juries. At this time the liberty of the city, by water, extended as far as Braiden.

In 1424, an indenture tripartite, made between the mayor, aldermen, and commons, containing constitutions for the better government of the city, was ratified at a common assembly, in the Guildhall, on the Friday after St. Lucy's day, the thirteenth of December; and afterwards confirmed by Henry VII. under the broad seal, in 1492. It sets forth, that the city was 'hevyly voyfed for

‘lak of good and vertuous governaunce, with inn
 ‘the fey’d citee had, to gret dishonour of the mair,
 ‘aldermen, and good commons of the same.’ To re-
 medy which evil, the following ordinances were
 made.

1. The aldermen, shall always give good coun-
 sel to the mayor, as the aldermen of London do.

2. They shall come to the mayor, whenever they
 are warned.

3. They shall keep secret all matters treated of,
 ‘till they be shewed in common assembly, called
 by the mayor and aldermen, or the major part of
 them, on pain of being displaced.

4. The aldermen shall support the mayor, and
 walk with him on principal days in procession;
 ‘er to any lord, or lady, or person of worship
 ‘into anie place in the cite;’ or pay fix-pence for
 default.

5. No alderman shall quarrel with, or sue his
 fellows, before he hath complained, and shewn his
 grievance, to the mayor, and aldermen his coun-
 cil, under 20s. penalty.

6. No alderman shall be an arbitrator against
 any other alderman, under the same penalty.

7. The aldermen shall be in clothing, as the
 mayors shall appoint, under 20s. penalty; and be-
 ing put out of the clothing, and council of the
 twenty-four aldermen.

8. The aldermen shall take the following oath,
 ‘Thys heir ye, fire mair, and all myn felas alder-
 ‘men, that her ben: that I, from this tyme forthe,
 ‘as

' as longe as I stonde in degre, and estat of al-
 ' derman, wythinne the citee of Norwych, to yow
 ' fire mair, and to yowr succeßoures maires of this
 ' feyd citee, xal ben obedyent; alle constitucyons,
 ' and ordinaunces, wyth here peynes and depend-
 ' auncis, in thise present endenturis comprehendit;
 ' as well as alle othir ordinaunces, be yow and your
 ' aldermen, er your succeßoures, er be the more
 ' part of hem, for honour of the estatys to ben mad,
 ' and ordeyned, with myn body and myn good, xal
 ' holden and susteyne; and in ony office upon me,
 ' in name of the same citee to be leyd, I xal me
 ' governe, be the councel and advys of the mair
 ' and aldermen of thys same citee, for the tyme be-
 ' yng, or be the advys of the more partye of hem.
 ' So help me God at the holy doom.'

It was now also ordered, that at the swearing the new mayor, and at such other times as the mayor should think convenient, the following proclamation be made in different parts of the city, viz.

‘ The Meyr of thys Cite, commaundyth on the
‘ kyngis behalve, that iche man kepe the pees,
‘ fro this tyme forthwarde; and that no man disturbe,
‘ ne breke the forseid pees, ne go armed wyth in
‘ the Citee, upon the peyn of presounment, and
‘ forfeiture of all the armure; and that alle
‘ maner of bakeris, baken iiij lovys for a peny,
‘ and ij lovys for a peny of bultell of reynes; and
‘ that bred, and all other bred, that the baxteris
‘ schall bake, be wele sefonde, and holden the ful
‘ weyghte,

weyghte, after the fourme of the statute ther upon
made; and upon peyn ther upon ordeyned wyth
inne this Cite. And that no bakere, beye none
qwete in the market befor X of the klokke; and
that alle brewsters and gannokers*, felle a gallon
of ale of the best be mesure a felyd for 1d. ob.
and a galon of the next for 1d. and other as it
hath befor tyme ben used, upon peyn that is
ordeyned in the Cite; and that all manner of
taverners felle a galon of redwyne of Gascoyne,
of the beste, be mesure a seled for 6d. and a ga-
lon of qwhite wyne of Gascoyne of Rochelle for
4d. and all manner of wyne according, like as
they ben of valew, upon peyn that is ordeyned
ther on in the Cite; and that no bocher, ne fish-
man, bringe no manner of vetaile into the mar-
ket to be sold, but yif it be onest and holsome,
as it owyth for to be, upon forfeiture of the ve-
taile, and of other ponyshement, be discrecion of
the Meyr of the Cite; and that none cook, felle
no vetaile, but it be well fefonde, and that thei
rechafe no mete in peyne of forfeiture of the ve-
tayle, and upon other peynes ordeyned in the
Citee; and that thei felle good and reasonable
penneworths; and that thei bye no manner vetaile
in market, before 8 of the klokke; and that none
bye ne felle no manner of vetaile in none inne,
with inne howses, but in the pleyn market, on peyne
ther on ordeyned; and that no manner man for-
stalle whete ne malte, ne non other corn in the
Cite,

* Alehouse-keepers.

' Cite, ne non other vetaile coming towarde the
 ' Citee; be lond ne be water; ne non ernest geve,
 ' upon non vetaile, but in the pleyn market, upon
 ' peyne of forfeiture of the vetayle, and upon other
 ' peynes ordeyned in the Citee; and that non aly-
 ' on* walk in the Citee, in somere, nor in wyn-
 ' tere after the corfu-bell † be rongyn, ne non
 ' knyfe bere with poynt, in peyn of prersonment
 ' and forfeiture of his knyfe; ne that there schall
 ' non alyon herverwe ‡ non other alyon, comyng
 ' to the Citee, upon peyn ther on ordeyned; and
 ' that no man with in the Citee, pleye atte tenys,
 ' ne coyting, ne dises, ne non other dishonest pleyes,
 ' upon peyn of prersonment, but usen schetyng §,
 ' and other onest games, as the kyngis command-
 ' ment is; and that alle constables of the Citee,
 ' iche man in his warde, kepe the pees, and make
 ' watches, as it is ordeyned; and arreste all manner
 ' of night walkers, and misdoers, and bring hem
 ' to the kyngis prerson, upon peyne ther on ordeyn-
 ' ed, wyth inne the Cite; and that all manner men
 ' of crafte, that ben foren or estrangeres, that we-
 ' lyn comyng to the Citee, and usen her craftis
 ' ther inne, they schall freely dwell in the forseid
 ' Citee, wyth owtyn any amercyment, or lose of
 ' goods, a twelmond and a day; and over that, in
 ' such

* Foreigner, or stranger.

† From the French couvre-
feu, to cover the fire; it being
a law of the Conqueror, that at
the ringing of the evening bell
at eight o'clock, every family

should rake up their fires, and
extinguish their lights.

‡ Harbour, or entertain.

§ The exercise of shooting
at marks.

‘such wyse as it haith ben used befor in old tyme.’ About this time, one hundred and twenty persons were persecuted in the diocese of Norwich, for lollardy*; and William White, a priest, was burnt here in September, 1424.

In 1426, the liber albus, or white book, a fair vellum manuscript, respecting the affairs of this city, was first compiled; and all the material evidences, and memorable occurrences, were therein entered, by the order of Thomas Ingham, then mayor.

In 1427, Humphry duke of Gloucester arrived here, being joined in a commission of oyer and terminer, and general gaol delivery, with the mayor, &c. and several felons were tried before him.

In 1428, John Beverly, labourer, was tried on suspicion of lollardy; and notwithstanding no proof was brought against him, yet he was sentenced to be fed with bread and water only, on the Friday and Saturday after his trial; and on the last of those days to be fustigated†, from the palace, by Tombland, to St. Michael’s at Plea church; and thence through Cutler-row, round the market; holding in his hand a wax candle of two pence price, which he was to offer to the image of the Holy Trinity, at the

* The followers of Wickliffe were called Lollards; either from Walter Lollard, a German, who first gave rise to the sect in 1315; or from lolum, cockle or darnel, as being tares amongst the Lord’s wheat. They were great reformers, and preached particularly against the monks, and other religious societies of those times.

† Beaten with cudgels, or rods made of osiers, &c.

the high altar of the cathedral, after he had performed his penance; and then to quit the diocese, and never more to return into it. These penances became afterwards very common here; and were called displings, or disciplinings.

In 1429, an agreement was concluded between William Worsted, prior of Norwich, and his convent, and the mayor, sheriffs, and citizens: by which, the prior had confirmed to him all his exempt liberty, in Spytelond, Holmstrete, and Raton-row; and his tenants there were wholly excused from serving at the turns of the sheriffs of Norwich; and permitted to buy and sell in the city toll-free; and to have and enjoy the ferry over the river Wensum, now called Sandling's ferry. All Conisford meadows were adjudged to belong to, and be in the jurisdiction of the convent; and the prior's right therein ascertained, of view of frank-pledge*, and

* A pledge, or surety, for freemen. For the ancient custom of England, for the preservation of the public peace, was; that every free born man, at fourteen years of age, religious persons, clerks, knights, and their eldest sons excepted, should find security for his fidelity to the king, or else be kept in prison: whence it became customary, for a certain number of neighbours to be bound for one another, to see each man of their pledge forth coming at all times; or to answer

the transgression of any one absenting himself. This was called frank-pledge, and the circuit thereof decenna, because it commonly consisted of ten households; and every particular person, thus mutually bound, was called decennier. This custom was so strictly observed, that the sheriffs, in every county, did, from time to time, take the oaths of young people, as they grew to the age of fourteen years, and see that they combined in one decennary or other:

and court-baron †, waif ‡, stray §, forfeitures of felons and fugitives, liberty of outfangthef ||, infangthef *, toll, theam ††, gallows, tumbrell |||, and confiscated goods, and all other liberties which former priors had enjoyed in all the meadows; the tower called the dungeon only excepted. Their jurisdiction was also allowed, in all the hamlets and towns of Brakendale, Lakenham, Eaton and Erlham, Erlham cross, and Nether Erlham-street; and from thence to Heigham gates; and from Berstreet gates, by the middle of the road, to the cross at the joining of the two ways; and from thence to Trowse mill by the foot-path; and from the mill to Trowse bridge; and so on by the north side of the bank of Trowse Ee to the river Wensum, including the Ee, or water there, belonging to the manors of Lakenham and Newton; and all free pasture

ther: whereupon this branch of the sheriff's authority was called, *visus franciplegii*, view of frank-pledge.

† A court, that every lord of a manor (who was formerly called a baron) holdeth within his own precincts.

‡ Goods found, of which no body claims the property: that of which every one waves the claim.

§ Any beast, not wild, found within any lordship, and not owned by any one.

|| Privilege of reclaiming any man dwelling in his fee, and taken up for felony in any other

other place, and judging him in his own court.

* Privilege of trying any thief taken within his fee.

†† A power of having servants and slaves. All baronies, enfeoffed with theam, were endowed with such power: for unto the possessors thereof, all their bondmen, their children, goods, and chattels, did appertain; and that so fully, that they could dispose of them at pleasure.

||| Or ducking-stool: an engine, invented for the punishment of scolds, and unquiet women.

pasture there; and free fishing in the Ee, and in the river Wensum; and a certain wharf in that river against the gannok; and all the water, and fishery, from Trowse bridge to the end of Eaton wood; and also liberty of riding in the city, and its liberties, on the Friday before Whitsuntide, to proclaim their fair kept on Tombland; which fair, with its liberties, the city fully disclaimed: and the prior was, moreover, to have the liberty of passing and repassing the river Wensum, at all times, with boats and other vessels, toll-free: and the mayor, &c. were to pay 4s. every Michaelmas-day to the prior and convent, on consideration of their releasing to the city, the tithes of twelve acres and sixteen feet of land, at the east end of the priory of Carrowe; and granting liberty to the mayor, coroners, &c. of exercising their several jurisdictions there; so that they did not interfere with the convent, its liberties, or tenants; nor hold any real or personal pleas, by writ or otherwise; nor any sheriff's turn, in any of the aforesaid places or lands.

Another contest also arose, between the city and inhabitants of Yarmouth, concerning a new-erected public crane in that port; in which the city obtained a verdict for removing the crane; together with a confirmation of their charter of liberties.

In 1433, a great disturbance happened on the election of a mayor; which was not finally composed 'till 1436, when William de la Pole, earl of Suffolk, came hither; and at an assembly held on the Thursday before Lady-day, at which were

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present

present the mayor, sheriffs, Wetherby and Grey, who had occasioned the dispute, sixteen aldermen, and 36 of the common-council, the whole matter was submitted to the said earl, whose determination was as followeth.

1. That the common seal, which had been forcibly taken out of the Guildhall, on May-day, 1433, by the commons, and by them kept, be placed in the old-accustomed place in the treasury; and that four clavers be chosen by the commons, as usual, to keep it, under the signet of the mayor, and four of his fellows.

2. That all writings, sealed therewith, or with any seal of office belonging to the city, against John Hauke, John Mey, Tho. Wetherby, Tho. Fishlak, John Belhagh, Wm. Grey, John Qwerdlyng, and others, be void; and all persons restored to their places, from which they had been ejected in 1433.

3. That neither Wetherby, nor his party, any more vex the commons, nor alderman of their party; nor they him, or his adherents.

4. That Wetherby be declared alderman of Conisford, and Grey of Wymer ward; and every one restored to his just rights.

In 1436, the city sent forty men, completely armed, to the defence of Calais, against the duke of Burgundy; who then besieged it.

In 1437, September 8, the city and its liberties were seized by the king*; and John Welles, alderman

* This seizure was occasioned by the continual distur-

bances and suits, between the city, the prior and convent, the abbess

man of London, was appointed custos, or warden. The mayor was displaced 'till March 1, when he was reinstated in his office; but so as to act under the warden. On the 15th of July, the sheriffs were removed; and two new ones appointed by the king's writ, to continue during his pleasure. And November 30, a proclamation was issued out, commanding all persons not to intermeddle in the disputes between the court and commons; or to hold any private meetings on either side, on pain of life and limb.

This year, the salary of fifty marks was paid to the mayor, as usual, out of the treasury; but afterwards to the warden: and by agreement with the new sheriffs, the city was to receive all the profits of their office, and allow them handsomely out of them, towards their expenses.

The citizens, in order to ingratiate themselves with the king, sent forty archers to assist in raising the siege of Guisnes; and advanced him 100l. by way of loan. They likewise dispatched a letter to the king's council, (in which they were joined by their worthy warden) praying a restoration of their liberties: but this they could not accomplish 'till 1439; when, at the instance of Thomas, bishop of Norwich, and William, bishop of Lincoln, they obtained letters patent for that purpose.

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abbess of Carrowe, and the abbot of Wendling, respecting their several privileges; in which it was proved, that the

city had far exceeded their liberties, and made them liable to forfeiture.

In 1440, Humphry, duke of Gloucester, and his dutchefs, visited the city; and were presented with forty marks. The citizens now hoped to have entirely regained the king's favour, through this great prince's interest; but by an ill-judged step, they effectually lost it: for, on the 18th of October, they gave orders for a suit to be commenced in the exchequer, for the 100l. they had lent the king three years before: a proceeding, which must necessarily give the court just cause of offence.

In January following, alderman Thomas Wetherby, who mortally hated the commons, on account of their opposing him in the late contests, instigated the abbot of St. Bennet's to prosecute the city, for erecting their new mills upon the river Wensum; though they had already stood there ten years, without being at all objected to. The abbot's plea was, that, as lord of the manor and lete of Heigham, he was seized of two water mills, and 160 acres of land; and had free passage on the river Wensum, for boats and vessels, to and from his abbey of Holm; and that these new mills not only hindered his so passing, but, by stopping the current, caused the water to overflow its banks, and drown his lands, to his great damage. In answer to which, the city proved, that there were four ancient mills across the stream, ever since the conquest; two at Taverham, called Bumpstede's, or Appilyerd's mills; and two within the city, called Calke mills; and that, whenever people went up the stream to Taverham, they were obliged to pull their boats
upon

upon land at old Calke mills; and that the abbot's mills, at Heigham, being higher up the stream, than either the old or new mills, the water was stopped before it came to their mills: and as to the erection of the new mills, it was of necessity; the old mills having been decayed and useles for twelve years; and besides all this, that out of the fee-farm of 128l. these mills produced 26l. clear.

Notwithstanding all the foregoing particulars were clearly proved, yet judgment was given against the city, and the profit of the mills forcibly taken from them for some time; when the affair was left to the determination of William de la Pole, earl of Suffolk: who ordered the city to pay 100l. to the abbot, and 50l. to the prior of Norwich, for the damages they had sustained by means of these mills. This decision so enraged the common people, that on January 25, they proceeded in a tumultuous manner, and in great numbers, to the Guildhall; from whence they carried away the common seal, that the award might not be sealed. They went afterwards to the monastery, which they threatened to set on fire; declaring their intention of killing the prior and monks; unless they would deliver up the final agreement, concluded between them and the city, (see p. 127); which, to save themselves, they were obliged to comply with: they likewise kept the city gates shut, and for some time refused entrance to the duke of Norfolk, the earl of Oxford, and other of the king's ministers; although they shewed them the king's commission,
to

to seize the rioters, and restore peace. This was called Gladman's insurrection, from one John Gladman, a merchant, who was very active in it. To answer these outrages, the mayor, &c. were commanded to appear before the council, on the octave of the purification; when the mayor was fined 50*l.* and committed to the fleet; where he lay 'till the 26th of March following. In the mean time, a commission of oyer and terminer was issued out, to sit at Thetford, where judgment being given against the city, the liberties were seized into the king's hands; and on the 18th of March, 1442, sir John Clifton was appointed governor of the city. Whilst the mayor remained a prisoner in the fleet, Wetherby took the common seal out of the chest, and, agreeable to the earl's award, sealed a bond of 100*l.* to the abbot of Holm, and one of 50*l.* to the prior; and another of 50*l.* to the bishop, who had now set up some claims; and then entirely destroyed the new mills.

In 1447, the citizens obtained a privy-seal, dated at Westminster, November 8; by which they were restored to all their liberties. And afterwards, on payment of a fine of 1000 marks, they obtained a full restoration, and confirmation of all their franchises, under the broad seal, dated December 1, in the 26th year of the king.

In 1448, the king honoured the city with his presence: and in 1449, paid it a second visit, on Saturday, August 29, and staid 'till the Monday night following; and was entertained at the expence of the bishop, the prior, the mayor, and commons.

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In 1451, Walter Jeffery was prosecuted, for executing the office of under-sheriff of this city two years together, and fined 200l. it being contrary to statute.

In 1452, it being rumour'd that Edward, earl of March, son to the duke of York, was advancing towards London; the queen, much terrified thereat, endeavoured to make what friends she could, and for that purpose came to this city; when, in full assembly, the commons resolved to advance 100 marks, as a loan to the king; and the aldermen, at the same time, presented the queen with 60 marks, to which the commons added 40 more; so that the king had now 200 marks of the city: the citizens judged this a proper opportunity to solicit a general pardon for all past offences, together with the grant of a new charter; all which they obtained, on paying a fine of twenty marks, and advancing to the queen the whole fee-farm of the city, for the last year, being 129l. 11s. 4d. The charter is dated at Westminster, March 17th, and consented to in full parliament: it contains a restitution of all liberties; a general pardon of past offences; a confirmation of former charters; with a full power of using all liberties, ever granted by any foregoing charter, not heretofore made use of; and an addition of the following privileges, viz. ' That they may, for the future, ' declare and plead all their customs and liberties ' before us, or our officers, by their own recorder, ' as doth the city of London: that the mayor, recorder,

' der, and all such aldermen as have borne the
 ' office of mayor, shall be justices of peace for the
 ' city and county thereof, so long as they continue
 ' aldermen. The said justices, or four of them,
 ' whereof the mayor and recorder shall be always
 ' two, shall be the king's justices; to enquire on the
 ' oaths of the inhabitants of the city and county,
 ' from time to time, whenever they think proper,
 ' of all felonies, transgressions, forestallers, regra-
 ' tors, conventicles, or meetings against the peace,
 ' armed forces, designs to kill or maim, or of any
 ' companies that associate, or distinguish themselves
 ' by hoods or liveries of one sort, contrary to the
 ' peace and ordinances published; of hostellers; of
 ' abuses of weights and measures; of matters relat-
 ' ing to the sale of victuals; of workmen, artificers,
 ' beggars, vagabonds, servants, &c. and of all
 ' things belonging to the office of justice of the peace.
 ' And also, that they may for the future elect under-
 ' sheriffs, town-clerks, and sheriff's bailiffs, at their
 ' pleasure, as freely as the city of London doth.'

At this time the contests between the prior and
 city broke out afresh; which, after various expedi-
 ents tried to conciliate all differences, but without
 effect, were at length settled by the good offices of
 the bishop of Norwich.

On St. Jerom's day, the court held their general
 commemoration, or anniversary obit, for the souls of
 the deceased benefactors to the city, (whose names
 and gifts were always on that day read out of a bead-
 roll kept for that purpose) at the chapel of the col-
 lege

lege of St. Mary in the Fields. The procession thither was as follows: the mayor, sheriffs, aldermen, common-council, the twenty-four constables of the city, thirteen poor persons clothed alike, who had 2d. each, and nine chaplains, to perform the exequies or service, each of which had 4d. At the same time, 6d. was given in bread to the prisoners in the Guildhall; the same sum to those in the castle; 4d. to each house of lepers at the city gates; 12d. for ringing; 4d. to the bellman; 4d. for lights; and 16d. for the herse*. This commemoration was kept annually, though not always on the same day, or at the same place; but mostly at this chapel, it being the place where the greatest part of the city business was at that time transacted.

A statute was now made, limiting the number of attornies; and enacting, that there should be only six in the county of Norfolk, six in Suffolk, and two in the city of Norwich; all which fourteen attornies were to be elected and admitted, by the king's two chief justices for the time being.

In 1456, December 20, a shock of an earthquake was felt here; and in the year following, a French invasion being dreaded, the city raised two hundred men, which they sent for the defence of Yarmouth.

In the year 1460, during the contest between the houses of York and Lancaster, the mayor and aldermen raised forty armed men; and the commons eighty; and appointed William Rookwood,

T esquire,

* A temporary monument raised over a grave; also a carriage, in which corpses are drawn to the place of sepulture.

esquire, their captain; with whom they agreed for six weeks pay, at six-pence a day for each soldier, and sent them to the assistance of the king; who wrote them a letter of thanks, with a request, that they would maintain them for one month longer; which was readily complied with.

About the latter end of February, on account of the distracted state of the nation, it was resolved, that all the city gates should be kept locked, day and night, except five of them, which were to be constantly guarded: and in this state the city continued, till they received a letter from king Edward IV. acquainting them, that on the fourth day of March, he had taken upon him the government of the realm, and commanding them to proclaim him by the name of king Edward; and that all persons of what degree soever, between sixteen and sixty years of age, should arm themselves, and hasten to him with all possible speed: upon this, they directly proclaimed him, and raised a competent number of soldiers to support his cause. The king soon after his accession to the throne confirmed all the city's former charters, by inspeximus, wherein they are every one recited at large.

On the first of March, 1463, the cathedral received considerable damage by fire: and this year the statute was made prohibiting the carrying any wool out of the kingdom; and so plentiful was corn, that a quarter of wheat was sold in Norfolk for 20 d. a quarter of malt for the same price; and a quarter of barley or oats at 12 d.

In 1467, an act passed for the true making of worsteds in Norwich and Norfolk: the worsted weavers were by this act authorised to elect every Whit-monday, four wardens of the same craft, living in the city; and the artificers in the county of Norfolk, four wardens more, living in the county: all which were to be sworn on the Monday next after Corpus Christi day, before the mayor of the city, and the steward of the dutchy of Lancaster, if in the county and present; and the said wardens, or the major part of them, as well within the city, as without, had full power for a year following, to survey all worsteds, and make such rules and ordinances, as they judged to be for the good of the craft. They were also empowered to search all worsteds in Norwich, Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire, as well upon the loom as off; and to summon all persons who disobeyed this act, or their ordinances, before the mayor or steward, who might punish them at discretion: and every man was obliged to put his proper mark to every piece, on pain of forfeiture: the wardens were to assign certain places in the city and county; and appoint certain days in every week, when and where pieces were to be brought and searched by them; and if approved, then to fix their token or seal thereto, without fee or reward: and all mayors, sheriffs and bailiffs, whenever the wardens required them, were to attend, aid, and support them in their search. In 1468, this statute was extended to the county of Essex.

In 1469, the king was at Norwich, and received in a very grand and sumptuous manner.

In 1471, the commons granted 30*l.* yearly to the sheriffs, to enable them the better to pay the fee-farm rent of the city.

It is supposed that in 1472, the day of electing the mayor was changed, from the first of March, to the first of May; and that hath continued to be the day of election ever since: and this year Edward Sealye, one of the sheriffs, lived and kept his sheriffalty at Trowse-milgate, which is in the county of the city of Norwich. The statute, granting to mayors, &c. a power of searching and surveying victuals was now made; and a common sergeants, or clerk of the market elected.

In 1474, the king visited the city, and was presented with a sum of money by way of benevolence; notwithstanding which, the following year the city was taxed at 80*l.* 6*s.* 11*d.* for a whole tenth and fifteenth, raised for the payment of the forces employed in France.

In 1477, the plague raged so furiously throughout England, that, as Hollingshed says, thrice the number of people died in four months, that had been destroyed in the last fifteen years of war.

In 1478, the latter end of September, another pestilence broke out; and continued its ravages 'till November 1479: in which time, according to Nevile's account, there died an incredible number of people in this city: in the following year, on the 28th day of December, a severe shock of

an earthquake was felt in Norwich and Norfolk, and almost all over England; many buildings were overthrown by it, and considerable damage done in several places.

In 1481, the ancient assessment towards repairing the walls was renewed; by which it appears, that the ward of South Conisford, repaired the tower in the meadow, the tower opposite to it by the river side, all the wall to Conisford gate, that gate, the wall to the next tower, that tower, and wall half way to the black tower. North Conisford, repaired the walls from thence to the black tower, that tower, and so on to the corner of Berstrete gate. Berstrete, repaired the wall from that corner, Berstrete gate, and the wall and towers to the iron door, now called Brazen-doors. St. Stephen's, repaired the iron door, and all the towers and wall to Nedham, now St. Stephen's gate, and that gate. St. Peter's of Mancroft, repaired all the wall from that gate, with four towers, and the wall to the fifth tower. St. Giles's, repaired all the wall, towers, and St. Giles's gate, to the tower on the north side of the gate, and that tower. West Wymer, repaired from that tower, all the wall, and towers to St. Bennet's gate, and that gate. Middle Wymer, repaired all from thence to the river, Bishop's gate, and Rosceline's stathe. Colfany, repaired the tower on the north side of the river, with the wall to St. Martin's gate, and the wall, and towers to St. Augustine's gate, and both those gates. Colgate, repaired

paired all the wall, and towers, from St. Augustine's to Magdalen gate. Fibridge, repaired Fibridge or Magdalen gate, and all the wall, and towers, to the tower next to Pockthorp gate, on the north side. East Wymer, repaired that tower, and the wall to Pockthorp gate, and that gate, and so to the river, and the tower by the hospital meadows.

In 1482, the king granted to the mayor, sheriffs, and commonalty, two free marts or fairs, to be held within the city and county of the same; the first, ten days before the third Sunday in Lent, and ten days after; the second, upon the commemoration of St. Paul, (June 30) and twenty days after: with all liberties and customs belonging to such marts or fairs. This grant was exemplified under the broad seal; and the marts were at first very considerable; but are now reduced to one day fairs only: the most considerable of which is that kept on Lammas-day, near Hertford bridges.

In 1484, 2 Richard III. the city appointed four aldermen, and ten commoners, together with the chamberlains, to provide stalls and booths, and pens for cattle against the free marts; and the sheriffs made Robert Machon their under sheriff, steward of the pie-powder courts, appendant to the said marts.

In 1485, John Ebbes one of the sheriffs died; and as a writ could not be obtained from London, for electing another, Curtis his partner, served singly

singly the remander of the year; but held no courts after the death of Ebbes.

The next year, 1 Hen. VII. on the rebellion of Lambert Simnel, who assumed the name of Edw. Plantagenet; the king, expecting an invasion of the eastern parts of the kingdom, made a progress through Norfolk and Suffolk, to confirm the inhabitants in their loyalty; and spent his Christmas at Norwich; when the city made him an handsome present: from hence he went in pilgrimage to our Lady's chapel at Walsingham, so famous for its miracles; where he made his vows; and after he had restored peace by a compleat victory, he sent his banner to be offered there, as an acknowledgment of his prayers being heard.

The kingdom was now visited with a new kind of disease called the sweating sickness, or dead sweat: it was so contagious, that scarce one in an hundred escaped it; those to whom it proved fatal, died almost as soon as taken; and what made it more terrible, was, that the same persons were liable to it several times: it began September 21, and lasted till the end of October. A remedy was found out by a learned native of this city who generously published it to all the world.

Soon after, the old suit was revived between the prior and city, with respect to their several liberties: the prior insisting, that the site of the priory, Holmstrete, Tombland, Raton-row, &c. were not in the jurisdiction of the city. This contest lasted many years, and occasioned a very large expence to both parties.

In 1487, an earthquake was felt here on St. Thomas's day. And this year, the convent of the Carmelites, or White Friars, acknowledged the mayor and commonalty as their perpetual founders; who agreed to make a solemn procession annually, on the Assumption of our Lady, which was their foundation-day, to the said convent.

In 1489, it was enacted, that no butcher should slay any beast, within any city, borough, or walled town in England, or in the town of Cambridge, under the penalty of 12 d. for every ox, and 8 d. for every other beast so slain: but the towns of Berwick and Carlisle were excepted.

In 1490, the city sent the king a benevolence, together with 12 horsemen well armed, at an allowance of 12d. a day each man, till they were taken into his majesty's service; and the following year, they sent 20 foot soldiers.

In 1491, the burgessees in parliament acquainted the assembly, that they had been at great expenses, in procuring an ordinance of parliament to authorise them in a quiet manner, to take one John Estgate out of sanctuary: the said John having entered the church of St. Simon and Jude, and remained there a long time; during which, the city being obliged to keep watch day and night, lest he should escape, was at great charge and trouble: the expense was hereupon allowed; and the ordinance being passed, John Pynchamour, one of the burgessees, went to the sanctuary, and on Estgate's refusing to come out and submit to the law,

law, he in a quiet manner went to him, and taking him by the arm, led him to the Guildhall, whence he was committed to prison.

The animosities between the city, prior, and the monks, increasng daily; the king, on a representation of the whole affair, directed the following letter to the mayor.

By the King.

‘ **T**RUSTY and welle belovyd, we grete you
 ‘ welle: and whereas we ben enformed, that
 ‘ dyverse and many old grete grugges and maters
 ‘ of variaunce and debate, have been hangyng by
 ‘ many yeres passed, betwixt the priour and church
 ‘ of the cathedral church of our Cite of Norwyche,
 ‘ and ther predeceffouris on the on partye, and you
 ‘ the mayor, the shirreves, and commynalte of our
 ‘ said Cite, and your and their predeceffours, on
 ‘ the othyr partye; wherin many communications
 ‘ and treatyse have ben made by diverse notable
 ‘ persons for th’ appeyng of the same; but as we
 ‘ ben enformed have taken none effect; and there-
 ‘ by grete inconveniens be lykly to ensue. We
 ‘ therefore wole, and straytly charge you, that all
 ‘ manner excuses ceassyng, ye be and personally
 ‘ appier afore us and our counsayll at Westminstre,
 ‘ in the xvma of St. Mychell next; to th’ entent
 ‘ that aftyr the seid matyr of variauns, by us and
 ‘ our counsayll thorowly herde, we may sette therin
 ‘ such direction, as shall be consonant wyth our
 ‘ U lawes,

‘lawes, reason, and good concyens, for the fynall
‘appefying of the fame hereafter; not fayling here-
‘of on peyn of CCli. Latyng you wite, that we
‘by oure other like letters have yeven in ftrayte
‘commandment to the feyd priour and hys bre-
‘thren. Yeven at our manor of Shene, the first
‘day of Juyn.’

In compliance with the king's command, the mayor, recorder, and alderman Gardiner, were nominated to appear on behalf of the city, at the day appointed; when the principal matter in dispute being agreed on both sides, to be; whether the site of the priory, Tombland, Ratton-row and Holmstrete were in the liberty of the city, or not? on trial had thereon, before Sir William Hufe and Roger Townfende, a verdict was given in favour of the city. But notwithstanding this solemn decision, the mayor was again called up before the privy council, and commanded to go down and move the assembly to consent, that the priory, and all its liberties, might be formally exempted out of the county of the city, on the prior's paying them five marks a year, or eighty pounds down: this they would by no means agree to, but strenuously insisted on the king's charter; the consequence of which was, that the affair, after various appearances before the king and council, remained undetermined; and was productive of continual suits and indictments, during this whole reign.

In 1493, wheat was sold in London and Norwich at six-pence a bushel.

In

In 1495, it was enacted, that no man should be a worsted shearer in Norwich, unless he had served seven years as an apprentice, or was allowed of by the mayor, and masters or wardens of the company; that the worsted shearers in Norwich should make no ordinances, but such as the mayor and aldermen shall think necessary; that no inhabitant in Norwich, not being a shearman, should keep a shearman in his house; and that henceforward, the citizens of Norwich might take apprentices, notwithstanding the statute of 7th H. IV. But upon information to the parliament, that this statute was obtained with a crafty design of separating the worsted shearers, from the main body of shearmen, and making them a different craft or trade; so much of the act, as related to worsted shearing, was repealed; and the remainder of it confirmed.

The same year an act passed, appointing particular towns, amongst which Norwich was one, for the keeping standard weights and measures, to seal others by; enacting, that no person presume to buy or sell, but by such sealed weights and measures; and empowering the officers of every city, burgh, or market town, twice in a year, to examine all weights and measures; to destroy such as be defective; and to fine the party offending, for the first fault 6s. 8d. the second 13s. 4d. the third 20s. and to set him or her upon the pillory: and further, 'that there be but eight bushels rased or stricken to the quarter of corn; and 14lb. to the stone of wool; and 26 stone to the sack.'

On the third of November died John Wellys, mayor, and Thomas Caus was elected in his room; but the corporation was obliged to procure a writ of dedimus potestatem, to authorise them to swear him; their charters having given them no such power, in cases of death.

In 1496, the city sent to the assistance of the king, against the Cornish rebels, twenty soldiers, well equipped and armed with brigandines †, and forty pounds to maintain them: eleven were raised by the aldermen, and nine by the commons.

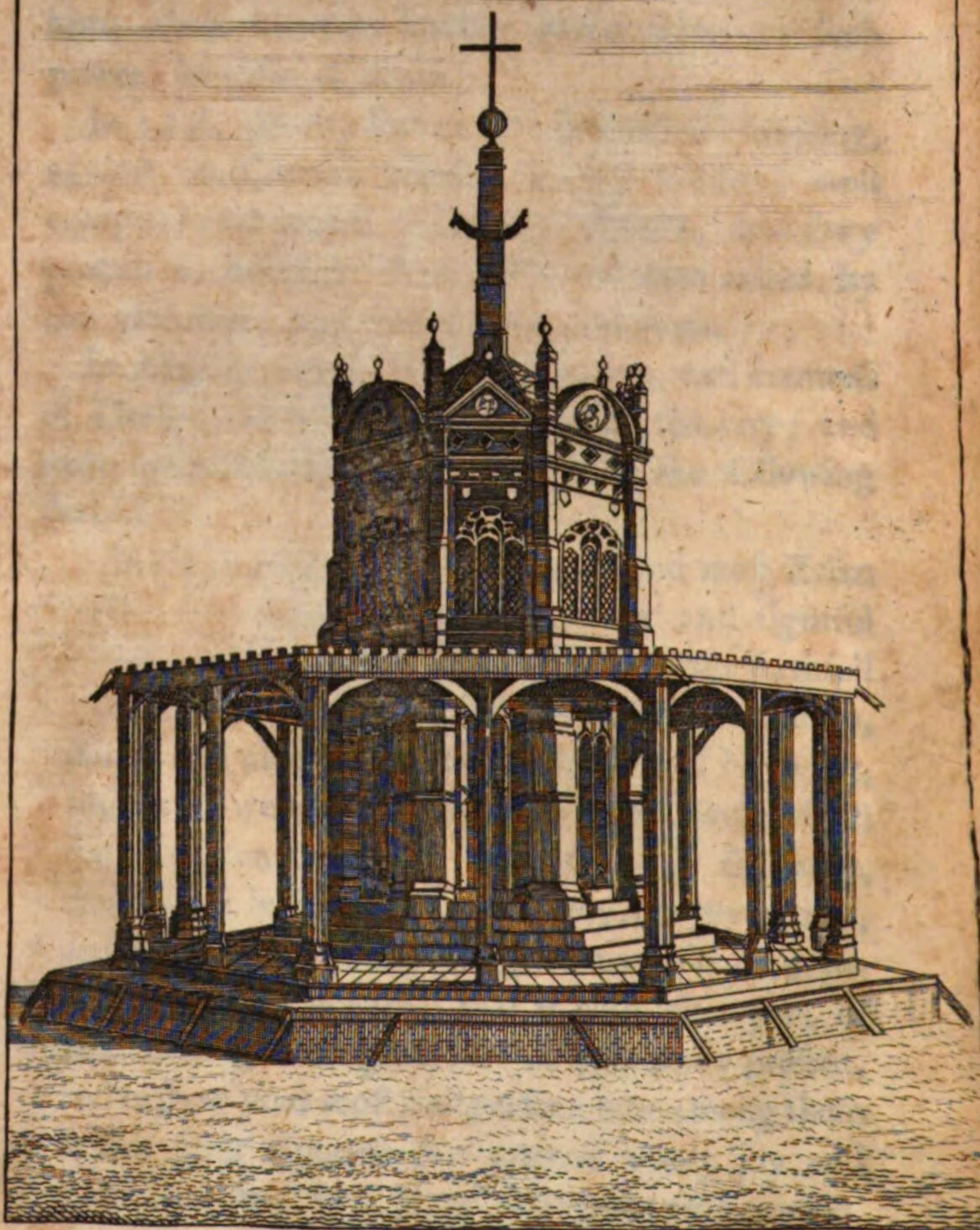
In August, 1497, the king, queen, and countess of Derby, the king's mother, visited the city; and were received by the mayor, with the following speech.

‘ Most excellent, most gracious, and most Xtien
 ‘ kyng, our naturall, our undoubted and rightful
 ‘ sovereyne leige lord. Here be your true feithfull
 ‘ and most humble subgiets, maisters, the Meire,
 ‘ shiriffs and aldermen of this your citee of Norwich,
 ‘ whiche as wele for themselff, as in the name of all
 ‘ the commonailte, and inhabitants of the same,
 ‘ thank your heighness, as humbely, as reverently,
 ‘ and as hertyly, as any subgiets may do their so-
 ‘ vereigne lord; for this, that it hath lekid you, of
 ‘ your most speciall grace, to be personally present,
 ‘ and to shew your most riall persone here among them
 ‘ in this your citee, to ther grettest erthly joy and
 ‘ comfote. And for a pleyn and oppen recognicion,
 ‘ that ye soveraigne lord, be hertyly welcome to them
 ‘ all,

† Coats of mail, plated and jointed.



St. John's Church



Norwich Cross.

Simpson fecit.

all, and that all they be your feithfull lovynge sub-
giets in worde, will and dede, according to ye
duty of ther alligeans; and how be it, that they
ar more poore, and not of such welth as they have
ben afor these dayes; yet fovereigne lord, they
offer, geve, and bring here onto your heighnes a
present, that is to say a cope (cup) with a hundred
pounds of riall golde, conteyned in the same;
hertily beseeching you, fovereigne lord, of your
most habundaunte grace and goodnes, yat it may
be by your heigh comaundment, benyngly so ad-
mitted, accepted, and receyved; not for the quan-
tite or value of it, but for that it is goven and pre-
sentid, of very good and hertily affection: and
moreover, thei specially beseech your heighnes,
fovereigne lord, to be to this your feyd citee, and
of the liberties of the same, speciall protector,
bounteowse adjutor, and gracious fovereigne at all
tymes; and all thei daily, shall prey almighty God
hertily, for the prosperous, good and gracious en-
crease, conservacion, long contynuance, and mag-
nificence, of your most riall estate and persone.
Amen.

In 1499, one Babram was burnt in Norfolk,
for heresy, then so called.

In 1501, John Rightwise, mayor, began building
the cross in the market, and finished it in 1503:
it was a most commodious and handsome pile;
but falling into decay, was sold in 1732, by the
tonnage and city committees, for 125l. and soon
after taken down.

In

In 1503, the city obtained a new charter, dated at Westminster, March 7, which contains by *in-peximus*, all former charters, with a full confirmation of them.

In 1505, Robert Adams, clerk, was burnt here for heresy; and the same year, great part of the city was destroyed by fire.

In 1507, one Thomas Norris was condemned by Richard Rix, bishop of Norwich, for the true profession of the gospel, and burnt.

On the 25th of April, a dreadful fire broke out, which raged with great violence for four days successively: and on the fourth of June following, the city was again visited with the same calamity, which laid it waste for two days and a night: by these two fires, from the best accounts, 718 houses were destroyed; and almost the entire wards of Mancroft and Wymer, together with part of the ward beyond the water converted, into an heap of rubbish.

About this time, the following oaths were settled and agreed upon, to be administered to the several officers, at their admission into their respective offices.

The Maire's charge of the Mairalte.

Ye schall swer, that well and lawefully to your cunnyng and power, ye schall susteyn, executen, and maynteyne the lawes, liberties, fraunchises, gode customes, and ordenaunces of the CITE of NORWICH, and the pes and tranquillite in the
same

same CITE, as moche as to you be vertu of your office apperteneth; and that ye schall make dewe serche of all vytall and of all other thinges, that longen to your office, as often tymes as it is nede-full to be don, by your discrecion, or whan ye be required, for the common profite of the Cite and the cuntre; and that ye schall don dewe, and open, and discrete correcon and redresse, upon the defaults foun-den, after the forme of the ordenaunces thereupon made and to be made, and that ye schall do justice and egall right, as well to the pore as the riche. So God yowe helpe and all Seyntes.

The Maire's charge for the Eschetrie.

Ye xall fwer, that wele and truly ye schalle serve owre lord the Kyng in the office of Mairalte in the Cite of Norwich; and the same Cite ye xall kepe fewrly and faufly to the profight of owre lord the kyng, and of his heires kyngis of Ingelond; and the profight of the kyng, ye schalle doo in alle thingis that longith for yow for to doo; and all the rightis of the kyng, as moche as longith to the coroun in the same Cite, truly ye schalle kepe; ne ye schalle not assentyn to distresse, ne to non concele-mentis of rights of fraunchise of the kyng, and quereof ye may knowen the rightis of the kyng, or of the coroun, be it londys, or in rentes, or elles in fraunchises, or in fewtes conceled, or restreyned, your peyne ye schalle puttyn to that to repelyn; and if ye knowe ought don, ye schalle tellen our lord
the

the kyng, or ellys to fume of his councel, of qwich ye'arn certeyn that schalle telle the kyng; and that truly and rightfully ye schalle trete the peple of yowre bailie, and do right to iche man as well as to a straunger, and to the pore as well as to the riche, in as myche as longith to yow for to done; and that for heyneffe, ne for richneffe, ne for poverneffe, ne for favour, ne for havere †, wrong ye schall doon to no man; ne no mannys right disturblyn, ne nothing taken qwerefore our lord the king schalle lese, or be qwich right schuld be destroied; and in alle thing that longith, to the Meyre of the same Cite to be doon, as well in governaunce of vetaile, as in all other thingis, well and truly ye schall have yow. So God yow helpe atte the holy dome.

The Recorder's oath.

Ye schall fwere, that ye schall in the offyce of Recorder withinne the Cite of Norwich and liberte of it, as well as in the offyce of justice of pes withinne the same Cite, lawefully to your power behave yow, and good, trewe, and holfom counselle geve to the Mair and Aldermen of the Cite, in use and execution of governaunce of common right; as well in offyces of Mairalte, Justice of pes, and Eschetrie, according to the lawes of the lond, and lawes and good costumes of the Cite, after your wytte and connyng, withoute favour or affection of any persone, and that ye schall on your behalve duly keepe. So helpe yow God and his feynts.

The

† Hatred: probably from the French hair, to hate.

The Schreve's charge.

Ye schall fwere, that ye schall wele and trewely
servyn the lord owr Kyng, in the offyce of Schreve-
hood in the Cite and Counte of Norwich, suburbes,
hamlettis, precinctis, and circuities of the same Cite
and Counte. And trewely, buxumly, and right-
fully ye schall trete the people of the same Cite
and Counte, and alle other peple, in that that touch-
yth your offyce. And ye schall do right, as wele
to the pore as to the riche, and ben indifferente be-
twixte partye and partye, in all that longith to
your offyce. And ye schall, ne for promise, ne for
favor, ne hate, don ony thing to ony man, that might
ony ones right disturble or letten; and ye schalle
trewely serven the writtes of owre lord the Kyng,
upon your wyt and power; and the commaund-
ments, precepts, and warrantys of the Meyr of the
Cite, and in all that touchith your offyce ye schall
servyn and obeyen; and alle pleyntes, that the
Meyr fendith for, ye schall delyver to him, and
non withholden, accordyng to the ordinaunces ther-
upon made; and all maner of ryghtis of the Kyng
and Cite qwich ben appertenaunt to yowr offyce; and
alle other thyngis dewe to the Kyng and the Cite, ye
schalle susteyn, kepin and maynteyne, as it hath
been susteyned, kepid and mayntenyd, befor this,
in old tyme; and non of hem losen be yowre de-
fautys, as ye will answer therfor to the Kyng; and
qwyte the comons agene the Kyng; and no man lete
owte of preson, qwych is sent into preson be the
X Meyre,

Meyre, withowtyn assent or specyall commaundement of the Meyre. And ye schall wele and trewely, the lawys, lyberties, and good costumes and ordinaunces of the feyd Cite kepen and susteynen, in as moche as to yow longith. And ye schall trewely doon, or make to be don, jugementis and executions of the verdytes of your court, without sparing of ony man; and ye schall holden yowr Schreves-turnes opynly in the Gyldehalle, as the Schreve of Norfolk, and othyr Schreves doon in her countees wythyn the relm of Ingelonde, upon the fourme of the statute; and that ye schall no men putten upon the enquestis, that schall be taken for the Schreves-turn, but good men and sufficiaunt, that ben men of good name and good fame; and that ye schall make proclamacyon for yowr turne, in divers placis wythinne the wardis owt of qwom the enquestis schall be taken, atte leste iiij dayes befor, under this fourme: that alle manner of men that have for to done atte the Schreves-turn, and ther any thyng will feyen for owr lord the Kyng, or for hymself, that they ben atte the Gyldehalle fuche a day, as yowr turne is fet to be holden, and he schall ben herd; and that ye schall seen, that the enquestis that arn for to be taken betwyxt the Kyng and the partye, and betwyxt partye and partye, xall ben taken endeferently, wythowtyn ony denominacion of eyther partye, be mowthe or be bylle, by the parties, or any other in her name; and ye schall cause your under-schreve, and all yowr other offycers, to make fuche othe, as to hem longith, that wele and
trewely

trewely they schall don her offyce, wythowtyn extortion, or wrong doying to ony man; and in especyal for the enquestis that arn to be taken, betwixt partye and partye, that they maken enquestis, ne putte non names in non enquestis, atte denomination of partye, by mowthe ne be bylle, ne no man but fuche as he supposeth xuld ben indeferent men; and that the ferme of owr lord the Kyng for yowr tyme ye xall payen and aquyten the aforeseyd Cite and Communalte of the fame; and that in yowr proper persone ye schall be abydyng upon yowr baylywyk, duryng the time of your beyng Schreve of the feyd Cite: and these poyntis afornerherfed ye schall duely and trewely observen and kepyn; and ye schall doo yowr deuty. So helpe yow God atte the holy dome.

The othe of the Common-Council.

Ye schall fwere, that ye schall be trewe to the Kyng owr soveraign lord, and to his heires; and redely come atte the howre, whan ye be summoned to the common-counfelle of the Citee, but ye ben reasonably excused, upon peyn therupon ordeyned; and good and trewe counsell ye schall geve, after yowr wytte and cunnyng: and for no mannys favor, ye schall not maynteyne non singler profite ageynst the common profite of the Citee; and after ye be come to the common-counsell, thens ye shall not go wythowt a resonable cause, or els maister Meyr's licence, untill maister Meyr and his brethren depart; and that is feyd in the common-counsell, and

Meyre, withowtyn assent or specyall commaundement of the Meyre. And ye schall wele and trewely, the lawys, lyberties, and good costumes and ordinaunces of the seyde Cite kepen and susteynen, in as moche as to yow longith. And ye schall trewely doon, or make to be don, jugementis and executyons of the verdytes of your court, without sparing of ony man; and ye schall holden yowr Schreves-turnes opynly in the Gyldehalle, as the Schreve of Norfolk, and othyr Schreves doon in her countees wythyn the relm of Ingelonde, upon the fourme of the statute; and that ye schall no men putten upon the enquestis, that schall be taken for the Schreves-turn, but good men and sufficiaunt, that ben men of good name and good fame; and that ye schall make proclamacyon for yowr turne, in divers placis wythinne the wardis owt of qwom the enquestis schall be taken, atte leste iiij dayes befor, under this fourme: that alle manner of men that have for to done atte the Schreves-turn, and ther any thyng will feyen for owr lord the Kyng, or for hymself, that they ben atte the Gyldehalle suche a day, as yowr turne is set to be holden, and he schall ben herd; and that ye schall seen, that the enquestis that arn for to be taken betwyxt the Kyng and the partye, and betwyxt partye and partye, xall ben taken endeverently, wythowtyn ony denominacion of eyther partye, be mowthe or be bylle, by the parties, or any other in her name; and ye schall cause your under-schreve, and all yowr other offycers, to make suche othe, as to hem longith, that wele and
trewely

trewely they schall don her offyce, wythowtyn extortion, or wrong doying to ony man; and in especyal for the enquestis that arn to be taken, betwixt partye and partye, that they maken enquestis, ne putte non names in non enquestis, atte denomination of partye, by mowthe ne be bylle, ne no man but fuche as he supposeth xuld ben indeferent men; and that the ferme of owr lord the Kyng for yowr tyme ye xall payen and aquyten the aforeseyd Cite and Communalte of the same; and that in yowr proper persone ye schall be abydyng upon yowr baylywyk, duryng the time of your beyng Schreve of the feyd Cite: and these poyntis aforn reherfed ye schall duely and trewely observen and kepyn; and ye schall doo yowr deuty. So helpe yow God atte the holy dome.

The othe of the Common-Council.

Ye schall fwere, that ye schall be trewe to the Kyng owr soveraign lord, and to his heires; and redely come atte the howre, whan ye be summoned to the common-counselle of the Citee, but ye ben reasonably excused, upon peyn therupon ordeyned; and good and trewe counsell ye schall geve, after yowr wytte and cunnyng: and for no mannys favor, ye schall not maynteyne non singler profite ageynst the common profite of the Citee; and after ye be come to the common-counsell, thens ye shall not go wythowt a resonable cause, or els maister Meyr's licence, untill maister Meyr and his brethren depart; and that is feyd in the common-counsell, and

ought to be kepte concealed, ye schall kepe it secrete, and non part thereof disclose.

So helpe yow God and all feyntes.

The Othe of the Common Speker.

Ye schall swere, that yow indifferently, wythout eny affeccion, favor, or corrupcion schall execute yowr offyce of Common Speker, as well in all assemblies, as in the elecon of the mayer or shireffs, for the yere next ensuyng, accordyng to your knowledge, witte and conyng; and by non covyn, male-engyne or collusion, schall make no manner of mean to the commons in the tyme of the eleccion, whereby the frank or free eleccion of the commonys there beyng presente, may in any wise be violat, altered, or chaunged, contrary to the trewe ordinaunce of the sayd eleccion.

So helpe yow God and all feyntes.

The Charge of the Under Shirreve.

Ye schall swere, that ye schall the offyce of under shirreve withinne the citee of Norwich, and the libertes of the same, wele, duely and trewely, to your power do and execute, withowte extorcion, or wrong doyng to eny persone; true entrees, records and retornes, to your witte and conyng ye schall make; the liberties, fraunchises and customes of this citee, to yowr power maynteyne and susteyne; the profites of yowr maisters the shirreves of this citee diligently awayte and entende; and
in

in all other thyng apperteynyng to your offyce,
ye schall trewely behave yow.

So helpe yow God and all feyntes.

The Tresorers (now Chamberlains) charge.

Ye schall fwere, that ye schall be trewe to the commons, and that ye schall trewely chargen yow and dischargen yow, of all parcells be yow receyved; and ye schall overseen, alle manner thyng that longith to the commons to have of right; and that ye schall make dewe serche, twyes in the quarter, wyth the surveours, or one of the surveours, or atte the lest wyth the clerk and the common serjaunt; and ye schall entren aboven in the gyldehalle, on the Saterdag, alle the costis don in the weke before; and that ye schall no cost don in no place, withowteyn assente of the surveiours* aboven fortie shyllings; and that alle artificers and laborers, xall be peyd aboven in the gyldehalle, on the saterdag in the morn, but in no manner of chaffrare† as it hath been afore tyme; and this ye schall as deuly and as truly don, as ye xuld don for yowe own goodis.

So helpe you God, &c.

The Coroners charge.

Ye schall fwere, that ye schall withinne the libertie of the citee of Norwich, as well in water as in lond, wher any persone, man, woman, or child,
is

* Since called the chamberlain's council. † Goods, or wares.

is founden ded; that is to feye, drowned, flayne, murdred or sodenly dede, or otherwise by infortune, upon laweful knowynge unto yow to be made, unto the fame dede perfone approche, and eighenſ and upon the fight of the dede perfonne, diligente enquerre for to make; and in appellis exigendis and outlawries wythinne the fame liberte to ben hadde, as well as of the feyde enquerres, trewe recordes to make; and the recordes of enquerres, to the chaumberleyns of the citee delyver; and in all that apperteyneth to the offyce of coroner withinne the feyd liberte, ye ſchall trewly do yowr dever|| to yowr power, withoute fraud of the Kyng and of the citee of Norwych.

So helpe yow God, &c.

The Othe of the Common Clerk.

Ye ſchall ſwere, that ye ſchall in the offyce of common clerk wythinne the citee of Norwich, and the liberte of it, as well as in the offyce of clerk of the pees and eſchetrie, wythin the citee, oneſtly and trewely to yowr power, wythowten parcialte, yow behave and governe; trewe warrentis, entries and recordes, upon yowr conyng make; the profite of the Kyng and the Meyr for the time being, as well as of the commonalte of the feyd Citee wayte and entende; and her counſell kepe upon yowr myght.

So helpe yow God, &c.

The

The Othe of the Maisters of the Craftes.

Ye schall fweren, that ye schall wyth alle yowr myght and yowr power, keepen pees and reste and tranquillyte, wythin yowr crafte; and all manner of good governaunce and ordenaunce wythin yow, ye shall holden: and ye schall make good and trewe serche in yowr crafte during this yere next comyng, and all manner notable defautes that ye findyn in yowr crafte, well and trewely, ye schall presente them up, onto the Meyr; and if ye make ony ordenaunces in yowr crafte, ye schall not put them in execucion, till they be confermed by the common counfel of the Citee; and that ye schall not suffren no man of yowr crafte, to engrosen, ne forstallen, no manner of vetaile, in hindring of the commons of the Citee; and also if ony man of yowr crafte take excesly for his crafte, ye schall truely presenten him unto the Meyr, by him to be redressed and corrected, and make fyne after the quantye of the trespase; and if any manner of man of yowr crafte, will not be serched, ne governed by yow, in all ryght and reson, qwilis ye be maisters of yowr crafte, ye schall certifye him unto the meyr, and he schall be chaastyced, as good ordenaunce of the citee wele. And that ye concele nought, these defautes aforfed, sparing no man for love, hate, ne dred, upon peyne of grevous pynschement, be advyse of the meyr and mo sufficiant men of the same crafte. But that ye schall so governe yowr crafte in alle thyngs, that may be encrese,

encrese profite and worschip, unto alle the Citee; and well and trewely, ye schall done alle that longith to maisters of the crafte so to doo.

So helpe yow God, &c.

The Constables charge.

The Meyre of the Citee, chargeth yow on the Kyngis behalve of Ingelonde, that ye xall sekyrly (unto yowr power) kepen the pees withinne yowre warde; and that ye schall not sufferen wythin yowr forseyd warde, any congregacionis, ne insurrecyonies, be day, ne be night, withowten special byding of Mr. Meyre, qwich may turnen in derogacyon of the Kyngis estate and of his regalte; and if eny man presume himselfe to doon the contrarie of this charge, that ye heve him arrested, wyth alle yowr power, as rebell agens the Kyng, and the good pees of the Citee, and bryngyn him to the Kyngis preson; and if ye be nought myghti to maken this arreste, ye xall comyn and compleynen yow to the Meyr for to strenthen yow agens alle such rebellis withinne this Citee; and that ye don duely this charge, upon peyne of forfetur of yowr goodis, and yowr bodies to preson, to be atte the Kyngis wille; and that ye arresten, alle manner of nyght-walkers, baratours §, and mysdoers, comune tenyse pleyers, and hafardowris † bowlers, valyant and myghty beggers, agens the Kyngis pees,

§ Common wranglers, that set men at odds; and are never quiet themselves, but at brawle with one another.

† Players at hazard, or any game of chance.

pees, as well be vertue of yowr offyce, as be sewte of partye, and bring them to preson, or els giff Maister Meyr knowledge thereof; and that ye geve men charge for to keeopen watch in yowre warde, as hath ben accustomed, upon peyne therupon ordeyned in the citee; and that ye schall execute all commaundements and precepts geven yow by Mr. Meyr, as well for the pees as for every other thyng; and that ye xall deuly and trewely perfourm all these pointis aforesaid, ye schall do yowr dever.

So helpe yow God, &c.

The Othe of the Attorneis in the Shreves Court.

You schall fwere, that you schall well and trewely execute the offyce of an attorneye withinne this cite and countie, without takyn excessive fees; ye schall be trewe and geve trewe counsaile unto yowr clyants, according to your witte and conyng; ye schall not pleade noo false ne delatarye pleas, ne plead any pleas to put the court out of jurisdiction otherwyse thenne the trewth of the matter, and cawse will serve accordyng to your witte and conyng; you schall not geve any evidens to enquest taken betwyxt partie and partie in any cawse or accion, otherwyse than ye schall be enformed by yowr clyaunts, or by suche other persone or persones, as schall witness the trewth of the matter; to your knowlege you schall be obedyent to the shreves and courte, in all thyngs that be laweful; and ye schall geve yowr attendaunce at the kyngis courts of oyer and termynner, the gayle
Y dely-

delyvereye, and the quarter sessions, to be holden wythin the seid citee, wythout cause resonable; and also ye schall use and exercise yowr seid offyce of attorneye wythinne the seid courts, in all other cawses and mattiers perteyning to an attorneye, well and trewely, accordyng to yowr witte and knowlege; and upholde and mayneteyne, the jurisdiction of the seid courte, to yowr best power.

So helpe yow God, &c.

The Othe of the Meyre's Sergeants.

Ye schall swere, that ye schall wele and trewly ferve the Mayr in the offyce of sergeante; and trewly, diligently, and besily attenden to him at all tymes, for his worschip and worschip of the Cite; ye schall also overseen the markets of corn, flesh, fysh, pulterie, and other vitayl; and all manner of forstallers of any manner of vitayl founden, ye schall arresten, and bringe hem to preson; or at least enforme the mayre of suche forstallers: ye schall also sufferen no bakers to bye whete before X. of the belle; ne Cook, ne flesh, fysh, ne wylde fowle before IX. of the belle, as the ordenaunce of the Cite is; and all other thyngs worschipfull to the Meyr and profitable to the Cite, ye shall don wyth all yower conyng and power, wythoute favor or rigour; ye schall also do trewly your offyce in takyng of brede, when ye be sent therefore, wythout favor, or informacyon, or warnyng to the bakers, in ony wyse, when they schall be serched; and that ye schall dew summonys make, unto the
per-

personys chosen for the common counfel, and to any offycers of the cite, or to any other persones, when it be assigned yowe; and trewe certificate to the mayr or his depute thereof returne; and the counfel of the mayr, aldermen, and of the asfemblee ye fchall kepe; and well and trewly all these articles befor reherfed, and all other thyng appertenaunt to your offyce, ye fchall duly and trewly obferven and performen.

So helpe you God, &c.

The Charge of the Shirreve's Sergeants.

Ye fchall fwere, that ye fhall trewely this yere, ferve the meyr and the fhirreves in ther courtes, in the offyce of fergeauntry; truly all manner of playnts to yow havyn longyng to the courte, entende and executyn; and as many pleyntes as ye may receve trewly bryngen to the feid courte, and ne pleynt concele, ne befcrene, taken be yow or in yowr name; alle fomonys, attachementis, diftreffis, preceptis, warrantis and grene wax, and all manner proceffe and executyons of the feid courte, trewly fervyn and executyn and certefyen, and non endes maken between partie and partie wythowten the feyd courte; and also non pannel maken, atte non nomination of partye, ne no man impanel betwene partye and partye but they that be endefferent men; ne no man, woman, ne childe aforn fchall warne, of no pleynt, ne proceffe, that is or fchall be ageyne him or them in the fame courte, but be autorite and commaundement of
the

the feid courte; ne non disceyt doon, of non pro-
 cesse longyng to the feid courte. Atte all the
 courtes holden in the gyldehalle, ye xall ben pre-
 sente in yowr propre persone, but if ye be com-
 manded otherwyse, be yowr maisters, or be the un-
 dershirreve; also no man letten owte of yowr warde
 to meynpryse, after ye have arrested him, but forth-
 wythe leden him to the gayle, or to yowr meis-
 ters, or the undershirreve; and ye schall at all tymes
 necessarie be present and redy to do servyce to
 yowr meisters, and trewly wayte, and attende,
 and kepe the avayls and counsele of the courte
 at all tymes, in all that ye can or may; and all
 the poyntes aforne reherfed, ye xall deuly and trewly
 kepen and performen.

So helpe yow God, &c.

The charge of the Common Sergeant.

Ye schall fwere, that ye schall make trewe leve
 of alle the summes owying to the commons, in the
 ende of every quarter of the yere, or wythinne **IIII**
 wekes next foluyng every quarter of the yere; and
 the summes unto the Tresorers of Norwich wythowten
 long tarieng, or withinne **IIII** wekes of every
 quarter of a yere, ye shall deliveren and payen;
 and if there be any tenaunt unto the commons, that be
 suspecte of evill payment of his ferme for a quarter,
 not havying sufficiant plegis or valu for to payen his
 ferme, then ye schall in the ende of every quarter
 of a yere, as often as it nedith, or wythinne **iiij**
 wekes after the ende of every quarter, withowtyng
 more

more tarieng, such a tenaunt distreyne, and the distrefs so taken, to wytholden to the behoofe of the commons, to the tyme that the feyd ferme wyth arerages be fully payd, and the commons fully fatisfyed; and yif ye of fuche tenaunt or perfone have not a fufficiaunt distrefse, than ye schall atte the ende of ony quarter of the yere, or wythinne **IIII** wekes foluyng, that perfone taken and attachen be the bodye, and hym leden to the preson of owr lege lord the Kyng, ther to abyden, til the tyme the commons be fatisfyed. Also that ye schall ben buxum and obedient, as wele in worde as dede, to the Meyr, Surveyours and Treforers of the Cite, in all leful commandementis; and that ye schall non harm don to the commons, but that ye schall restoren; ne non knowen, ne purposed to be don, of non other perfone, ne perfones, but that ye schall of the perfone or perfones, geve unto the meyr, surveyours, or treforers warnyng and knowyng; and the goodis of the commons befily ye schall garden and trewly kepen, and trewly thereof them answer; and ye schall not lete to ferme non stalle, ne howse, longyng to the commonalte; ne ye schall not encresen, ne distrefsen no tenauntis in her fermys, wythouten assent of the surveyours and treforers; and all thes asorseid, deuly and trewly ye schall fulfille and don.

So helpe yow God and all feyntes.

The Charge of them that ben made Citizens,
or Freemen.

This here ye mayr, shirreves and commune-counsell, that I schall from this day forward, the fraunchise and libertes of this cite of Norwich, maynteyne and susteyne with my body and goodis: and no mannys goodis avowe, but myn owyn, wher thorowe the Kyng or the comoners, myght lese tol, or custome, or any other right. Buxum ben to the mayr, and all other governours thereof, for tyme beyng; trewly payen my taxes and talliages; alle offyces to the which I xall be chosen in the cite, or in my crafte, them and iche of them, accepten diligently, and non refusen; all other charges lesfully leyde upon me, and all ordinaunces made, or to be made wythinne this cite, or in my crafte, confirmed by the counsele of the cite, obeyen and perfourmen from this day forward.

So helpe me God, &c.

In 1509, 1 Henry VIII. we find the city greatly distressed on account of the late fires: it was a long time before the river and streets could be cleared of the rubbish: in the interim, to guard against future disasters of this kind, the court issued an order, prohibiting any new erected house, or other building to be covered with thatch. This year also, great part of the cathedral, with its vestry, all the ornaments thereof, and books, were destroyed by a dreadful fire which broke out on St. Thomas's night.

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In 1510, Thomas Ayers, of Norwich priest, was burnt at Eccles: and this year the statute passed forbidding coroners to take any fee or reward for executing their office.

In 1511, Thomas Binge, a venerable old man, was burnt here, for not having received the sacrament of fourteen years, and declaring his abhorrence of the popish method of administration.

In 1512, a suit was commenced between the mayor and citizens of Norwich, and the mayor and citizens of London, for a custom in London called balliage; when it was determined that the citizens of Norwich were liable to no such custom: whereupon, all the liberties of the citizens of Norwich, were allowed in the guildhall in London, and there entered.

In 1513, an act was made to prevent deceits in worsteds; by which none were to be calandred wet, but by persons who had served an apprenticeship to such craft, and whose cunning and craft had been admitted by the mayor of Norwich, and two masters of the craft, either in Norwich or Norfolk. This act was made perpetual in 1533; when, it was also further enacted, that no dyer shou'd be a calanderer, under the penalty of 40s. for every piece calandered, by, or for the use of, the person who dyed it.

In 1515, the lady Mary, sister to the king, and her consort the duke of Suffolk, visited the city in their return from France; and were nobly entertained.

In 1519, was a violent flood, which, from the day on which it happened, was called St. Leonard's flood: it overflowed great part of the city, and broke down the bridge at Cringleford.

On the second of March, 1520, queen Catharine came to Norwich; and at the same time cardinal Wolsey was here.

A dispute, which had for some time subsisted, between the mayor, citizens and sheriffs, about the choice of officers, was now settled; when it was agreed, that for the future the sheriffs shou'd choose the under-sheriff, clerks, and bailiffs; and the mayor, aldermen, and common council, elect yearly a discreet lawyer, to be steward of the sheriffs court; who should receive of the sheriffs 40s. for his fee, for the execution of his office; and for his advice to be constantly given to the common council: and if they neglected to pay the said fee, the city should be discharged from the payment of the 30l. allowed them yearly towards the fee farm.

In 1522, by reason of the many vexatious suits in the sheriffs court, for words and trifling debts; it was agreed, that four aldermen be named, one out of each of the great wards, to sit in person, or by deputies, every Wednesday, from eight to nine in the morning, to adjust all debts under 2 s. and all actions on words, for the ease and peace of the city: this institution was of great benefit, and in some measure answered the purpose of the present court of conscience.

In 1524, through the mediation of Cardinal Wolsey, a composition and final agreement was sealed between the prior and the city at the Guildhall, on the second day of September; by which, the city resigned all jurisdiction within the walls of the priory; the whole site thereof being hereby acknowledged to be part of the county of Norfolk, and in the hundred of Blofield: and the church gave up all right of jurisdiction in every place, without their walls, and within the walls of the city; so that now, Tombland, with the fairs kept thereon, and all things belonging to those fairs; Holmestrete, Spytelond, and Ratton-row, with their letes, were adjudged to belong to the city, and to be part of the county thereof. The prior and convent and their successors, were also exempted from all tolls, customs, and exactions whatever, by land or water in the whole city, or county of the city and its liberties, for goods and chattels bought or sold for the use of the prior and convent, their households, or families.

The city also resigned to the church, all right and prescription of commonage, in Eaton and Lakenham, and on the prior's lands in either of those towns *; on the prior and convent's conveying to

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* Formerly the whole of the land, extending from St. Stephen's-gate towards Lakenham, and from thence to Hertford bridges, and so to Eaton, was common pasture, and the fee of the prior: who by agree-

ment entered into with the citizens had granted them a right of commoning thereon; on their paying to the prior's manors of Lakenham or Eaton, for every ox or cow feeding in either of those parishes, 1d.

or

the citizens in fee, eighty acres of pasture, parcel of the said common, (now called the town close,*) and six feet of ground round the said eighty acres to dig a ditch to inclose them: and granting them a liberty of passing and repassing to and from the said eighty acres, with all kind of beasts in the highway; and to and from Hertford-bridges, in the highway; and to water them there. This agreement was not only confirmed by the king's letters patent, dated at Westminster, October 4, in the 16th year of his reign; but also by authority of parliament.

In 1525, the king granted the city another charter, confirmed likewise by parliament; in which the late composition and agreement between the city and prior is fully recited and established, and the following new privileges granted, viz. That if any mayor die in his office, or be lawfully removed, or displaced; that then the sheriffs, citizens, and commonalty, by assembly in the Guildhall, may choose an alderman, that hath not been mayor for three years before, to serve the offices of mayor and escheator for the remainder of the year; who shall be sworn immediately after his election, in like manner as other mayors are: and the same to be done

or in both, 2 d. a year; and also 1 d. or 2 d. for every five sheep, according as they fed in one, or both of those places; the prior's tenants in Lakenham and Eaton, had an unlimited right of commonage there; and the prior reserved to himself and

successors, the right of bruery, turbary, &c. and a power of inclosing and breaking up forty acres of the said ground.

* Now converted into a farm, the rent of which is annually distributed amongst the freemen.

done in case of the death or removal of a sheriff. That the recorder, and steward of the said city, and their successors, and all that have borne the office of mayor, so long as they continue aldermen, be justices of the peace in the city and liberties thereof, and have cognisance of felonies, &c. and hold their sessions before four, three, or two of them, provided the mayor, recorder, or steward, be present; and have all other privileges belonging to justices of the peace; with power to make ordinances, provisions, and laws, for the peace and well government of the city, as far as concerns the office of justice of the peace: and that no justice of the county enter the said city; and that all fines and forfeitures be applied towards repairing the bridges, &c. without any account given to the king, or his officers, of any matter; the fee-farm rent only excepted. Affairs being thus settled, the city ceased going the bounds of Trowse-millgate, as they had used annually to do, to justify their right against the church; at which time great disorders most commonly happened.

In 1527, corn was so very scarce, that it rose to the extravagant price of 26s. 8d. a quarter, and occasioned many insurrections of the common people; several of whom were executed, for the outrages and excesses their contempt of the laws had led them to commit.

In 1530, the king was declared supreme head of the church; and acknowledged so by act of parliament in 1535.

In 1531, Thomas Bilney, a famous maytyr, suffered here. He was condemned on the following passages, extracted out of two sermons he had preached in 1527.

‘ Our Saviour Christ is our mediator between us
‘ and the Father, what need have we therefore to
‘ seek for any remedy from saints? it is a great
‘ injury to the blood of Christ to make such pe-
‘ titions, and blasphemeth our Saviour.

‘ Man is so imperfect of himself, that he can
‘ in no wise merit by his own deeds.

‘ The coming of Christ was long prophesied be-
‘ fore, and desired by the prophets; but John Bap-
‘ tist being more than a prophet, did not only
‘ prophecy, but with his finger shewed him, say-
‘ ing, Behold the lamb of God which taketh a-
‘ way the sins of the world: then if this was the
‘ very lamb which John did demonstrate, that ta-
‘ keth away the sins of the world; what injury is
‘ it unto our Saviour Christ, that to be buried in
‘ St. Francis’s cowl, should remit four parts of pe-
‘ nance? what is then left to our Saviour Christ,
‘ which taketh away the sins of the world? this
‘ I will justify to be a great blasphemy to the
‘ blood of Christ.

‘ It is great folly to go on pilgrimages; and
‘ preachers in time past have been antichrists, and
‘ now it hath pleased God, somewhat to shew forth
‘ their falsehood and errors.

‘ The miracles done at Walsingham, Canterbu-
‘ ry and Ipswich (where this sermon was preached),
‘ were

‘ were done by the devil through the sufferance of
 ‘ God, to blind the poor people: and the pope
 ‘ hath not the keys that Peter had, except he fol-
 ‘ loweth Peter in his living.

‘ Christian people should set up no lights before
 ‘ images of saints, for saints in heaven need no
 ‘ lights, and images have no eyes to see; and there-
 ‘ fore, as Ezechias destroyed the brazen serpent that
 ‘ Moses made by the commandment of God, even
 ‘ so should the kings and princes of these times,
 ‘ destroy and burn the images of saints set up in
 ‘ churches, &c.’

It was further deposed against him, that he was notoriously suspected to be an heretic; and that in his sermons, he had exhorted the people to put away their gods of silver and gold, and to desist from offering to them either candle, wax, money, or any other thing; and that in rehearsing the litanies, he said, ‘ pray you only to God and to no saints:’ and when he came to that passage Sancta Maria, &c. or, ‘ O Saint Mary pray for us,’ he cried out, stay there.

These, and many other articles of the like nature, being proved; he was exhorted to recant and abjure them: which upon his refusing to do, the bishop of London, having pulled off his cap, and made the sign of the cross on his forehead and breast, pronounced the following sentence:

I, by the counsel and consent of my brethren here present, do pronounce thee Thomas Bilney, who hast been accused of divers articles, to be convicted

vict of heresy; and for the rest of the sentence, we will deliberate 'till to-morrow.

The next day, Bilney was again asked, whether he would recant, and return to the unity of the church; when he desired a day or two to deliberate with himself, and consult his friends: at the expiration of that time he subscribed his abjuration; and being absolved, had the following penance enjoined him; to bear a faggot at the procession at St. Paul's bareheaded, and to stand before the preacher during the sermon there; and to remain in prison 'till he should be released by Cardinal Wolsey.

The reflection on what he had done, drove Bilney almost to despair: in this state he continued for more than twelve months, when he at length resolved to seal that truth, he had so shamefully renounced, with his blood: for this purpose he came to Norwich; where, as in his way thither he had already done, he openly preached those doctrines, for which he had been before condemned: and being apprehended, was burnt, in a place called Lollard's pit, without Bishopsgate, on Saturday the nineteenth of August.

This instance may serve to shew the nature and spirit of that superstition, which had arrogated to itself an empire over the consciences of men; and dared to propagate, what its votaries called the religion of Christ, and to enforce a belief in his name, by methods diametrically opposite to those commanded by Christ himself.

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The finding freeholders to serve on juries, having frequently been attended with great difficulty; it was this year enacted, that in all cities, boroughs, and towns corporate, felons might be tried by jurors not having freeholds, provided they be free-men, and worth forty pounds in goods.

At this time was settled the order of the procession of the crafts or companies, to be made on Corpus Christi day, from the common hall, by Cutler-row, and so round the market to the hall again: which order was to be observed on the Guild-day, and at all other times, when the companies were summoned to attend the court.

1. The company of masons, tilers, limeburners and smiths, with their two banners: which company kept their guild-day on the fifth Sunday after Trinity.

2. The carpenters, gravers, joiners, sawyers, sieve-makers, wheel-wrights, fletchers, (or arrow makers) bowyers and turners, with their banner. Guild on the twelfth Sunday after Trinity.

3. The reeders, thaxters, reed-fellers, claymen, and carriers, with their banner. Guild on the Sunday before Michaelmas.

4. The butchers, glovers, and parchment-makers with their banner. Guild the eighth Sunday after Trinity.

5. The tanners, with their banner. Guild the tenth Sunday after Trinity.

6. The cordwainers, cobblers, curriers, and collar makers, with their banner. Guild on the fourth Sunday after Trinity.

7. The

7. The sheermen, (or cloth-cutters) fullers, wool-len and linen weavers, and wool chapmen, with their two banners. Guild on the eleventh Sunday after Trinity.

8. The coverlet and darnick weavers, and gird-lers, with their banner. Guild on the seventh Sun-day after Trinity.

9. The combers, tinmen, &c. with their ban-ner. Guild on the third of February, being bishop Blase's day.

10. The vintners, bakers, brewers, innkeepers, coopers and cooks, with their banner. No guild, but pay to their priest for a certeyn 4s. 4d.

11. The fishmongers, fresh-water-fishers and the keelmen, with their two banners. Guild on the ninth Sunday after Trinity.

12. The wax chandlers, barbers, and surgeons with their banner. No guild, but pay forty pence for a certeyn.

13. The cappers, hatters, bag makers, paint ma-kers, wire drawers, and armourers, with their ban-ner. No guild, but pay for a certyn.

14. The pewterers, braziers, plumbers, bell-founders, glaziers, flainers, &c. with their banner. Guild on the second Sunday after Trinity.

15. The tailors, broiderers, hosiers and skinners, with their banner. Guild on the third Sunday after Trinity.

16. The goldsmiths, dyers, calenderers and fad-lers, with their banner. Guild the Sunday after St. Luke.

17. The

17. The worsted weavers and irlonderes, with their banner. Guild on Whitsunday.

18. The grocers and raffmen, with their banner. No guild, but pay 10s. for a certeyn.

19. The mercers, drapers, scriveners and hardwaremen, with their banner. Guild on Corpus Christi day.

20. The parish clerks and sextons, with their banner, waits and minstrels. Guild on the Thursday before Whitsunday.

On each banner was painted the patron or guardian saint of the company to which it belonged.

In 1534, an act passed for re-edifying those parts of the city, laid waste by the late fires; by which it was enacted, that if the owners of such void grounds, should by the space of two years after proclamation made by the mayor, for all persons to build or inclose their grounds, neglect to rebuild such ground, or sufficiently enclose the same with walls of mortar and stone; that then it should be lawful for the mayor, &c. to enter upon such vacant grounds, and hold, and retain them to their own and their successors use for ever, discharged of all rents and outgoings whatsoever; provided that within two years after such entry made, they either rebuild, or enclose them as aforesaid. In the same year, the council chamber at the Guildhall, and the prisons underneath, were rebuilt at the expence of 208 l. 10 s.

Certain lands and tenements were now conveyed to the city, by the executors of Robert Jannis, by

licence in mortmain, (notwithstanding the act passed four years before, to prevent lands, tenements, &c. being settled in trustees for the use of churches, chapels, guilds, fraternities, &c. there being an express exception of those given to the city, by the last wills of Robert Jannis and John Terry, aldermen of Norwich), in consideration that all persons coming or going to the city, or to any port or stathe there, to buy or sell during any fair, or mart, or at any other time, should be exempted from the payment of any toll or custom there, or at the city gates, to the use of the city, as was formerly done.

In 1535, an act passed for recontinuing liberties in the crown, by which all cities, boroughs and towns corporate, had their liberties and privileges fully confirmed.

Another act also was made, by which it was enacted, that charitable collections should be made for the relief of the poor, and poor's boxes placed in every church; and that no one should give any money in alms, otherwise than to the common boxes, or gatherings : but the act was not to extend to the prejudice of friers mendicant, or to abbots, priors, &c. who were bound to give alms in money, victuals, lodging, clothing, &c. by any good authority or ancient custom. The design of this act seems to have been, to make way for the dissolution of abbeyes, &c. for in the same sessions, all monasteries, not having lands of above 200 l. a year value, were given to the king, his heirs and assigns for ever, to do

do and use therewith, his and their own wills.† Indeed it is enacted, that for the keeping up hospitality, all persons and bodies corporate, having the site and demesne lands of such houses, shall be bound under the penalty of 6l. 13s. 4d. a month, 'to keep, or cause to be kept, an honest continual house and household, in the same site or precinct; and to occupy yearly, as much of the demesnes in ploughing and tilling of husbandry, &c.' as the abbots, or their farmers occupied for twenty years before this act: but this part of it has been but little regarded.

In 1537, the commons rose at Walsingham, on account of the suppression of pilgrimages to the image of the Virgin Mary there, but were soon quieted.

And in the following year, at the special instance of lord Cromwell, all the remarkable images, to which particular pilgrimages and offerings had been made, together with the shrines of saints, were removed; and all orders of friers and nuns totally suppressed. The images of our lady at Walsingham and Ipswich, were carried to London, and with several others burnt at Chelsea: and on Trinity Sunday, the monks of the cathedral changed their monkish apparel, for that of prebendaries, and secular canons.§

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† By this act near four hundred houses were dissolved, the yearly value of whose lands amounted to 32,000 l. their moveables were reckoned at

100,000 l. and the number of religious persons ejected at 10,000.

§ The clergy were at this time divided into secular and regular.

lar.

In 1538, Thomas Cromwell, lord privy seal, the king's vicegerent; sent injunctions to all bishops and curates, charging them to take care, that an English Bible, of the largest size, be placed open in each parish church, for every one to have recourse to; and at the same time another injunction appeared, commanding the use of parish registers.

Letters patent were passed, bearing date the 6th of April, 1539, and confirmed by authority of parliament; purporting, that whereas by other letters patent, dated May 28, in the 19th year of the present king, the precinct within the priory is exempted out of the jurisdiction of the city, and is constituted part of the hundred of Blofield, in the county of Norfolk; and also, that by other letters patent, the prior and convent are converted into a dean and chapter, and made a body corporate; and that, now the said dean and chapter, being desirous to give up their letters patent, incorporating their said precinct with the county of Norfolk; the king therefore, with the consent and good liking of the said dean and chapter, as well as of the mayor, aldermen, and common council of the city of Norwich; doth hereby acknowledge his acceptance of the said surrender, and ordain, that, for the time to come, the precinct shall be reckoned as part of the city, and the county of Norwich; and that the city may use such liberties in the precinct, as are not contradictory

lar: under the former class were reckoned rectors, vicars, and curates: under the latter, abbots, priors, monks, friars, &c.

as living, sub regula, under the rule of that order into which they had entered.

tory to the ancient liberties, formerly used there by the prior and convent; all which liberties are hereby reserved and confirmed to the dean and chapter, in as ample a manner as they ever had been heretofore used and enjoyed by the said prior and convent. In consequence of this grant, the following agreement was entered into between the city, and the dean and chapter, viz.

That if any affray, quarrel, or misdemeanor against the king's peace, happen in the precinct or close, in the presence of the mayor, or any other justice of the peace of the city; or any vagabond, or sturdy beggar come into their presence in the precinct; or if any opprobrious, or contemptuous words be spoken to the mayor, or justices of the peace within the precinct, the mayor, or justices of the peace, may take up every such offender, and carry him to the common city gaol; provided it be not the dean himself, or any of the prebendaries, or their officers, or servants. And if any complaint or action, real or personal, be commenced, levied, or entered in any court of the city, the process shall be directed to the bailiff of the dean and chapter's liberty, there to be served and executed; and every such mandate, process, &c. shall be delivered to the said dean, or to one of the prebendaries there, and if they be all absent, to one of the canons, or to the bailiff of the liberty, twenty four hours at least before the return of the same; and the officer that delivered it, shall certify upon oath, in the Guildhall, the delivery thereof, to some one of the said persons; before any process of non omittas, to enter
into

into the said liberty, shall be awarded by the mayor, justices of the peace, sheriffs, or any of them. And neither the dean, prebendaries, nor canons, nor their servants, inhabiting in the precinct of the said close, not being free of the city, shall be called before the mayor, &c. in any city court, to be sworn on any juries, inquests, &c. neither shall they have any manner of custom, amerciaments, fines, nor pains, for any cause or offence, committed or done within the precinct, levied upon them, otherwise than has been accustomedly paid, by the said dean, prebendaries, canons, or their servants and officers. And no warrant is to be granted, by any persons whatever belonging to the city, to be executed in the close, or precinct, against any of the members of the cathedral, their servants, or officers, inhabiting in the said precinct, before that the said mayor, or justice of the peace, hath informed the dean, or one of the prebendaries there resident, by whom or by what person any such request (for a warrant) is to them made.

Thus were peace and amity settled between the church and city, on a much more stable foundation than ever had been, hitherto, effected.

This year one William Leyton, a monk of Eye in Suffolk, was burnt here, for speaking against a certain idol, which used to be carried about in procession at Eye; and for asserting that the sacrament ought to be administered in both kinds.

In the thirty-first year of the king, the general dissolution of religious houses was effected by an act then passed, by which they all became vested in the
crown:

crown: and the following year, the privilege of sanctuary was taken from all places whatsoever, except parish churches, church-yards, cathedrals, hospitals, churches collegiate, and chapels dedicated and used as parish churches, and the sanctuaries to them belonging; and also, except such places, as shall by this act be appointed places of tuition and privilege; amongst which Norwich was constituted a sanctuary for life*.

In 1541, it was enacted, that no one should buy any worsted yarn in Norwich or Norfolk, but only such weavers or other artificers, as shall work, or weave it; or cause it to be wrought or woven, within the city of Norwich, or some other market town in Norfolk; on 40s. forfeiture for every pound of yarn so bought, and not wrought as aforesaid; one half to the king, and the other to the informer; and that no yarn should be carried out of the kingdom unwrought, under the same penalty; this act was to continue only 'till the last day of the next parliament; but by the first of Edward VI. it was made perpetual.

In 1542, a statute was made, confirming the liberties of cities and corporate towns; whereby recoveries, fines, deeds enrolled, and releases acknowledged therein by married women, are made valid.

* All persons who had taken sanctuary in any church, for any crime, excepting murder, rape, burglary, robbery on the highway, &c, might abjure to any place privileged by this statute; so that it was not full, as to the number thereby limited, which

In was 20 persons; who were to be registered, and called over every day by the governor, appointed by the king; and the bounds and limits of all such places, were to be fixed by the lord chancellor.

In 1543, a new cross, with a crucifix carved on one side, and the city arms on the other, was set up at Hardley, in the presence of the sheriffs; in the place where 'the shrevys of Norwyche yerely do kepe a court,' and this was the extent of the city liberty on the river Wensum at that time.

Upon a representation made, that divers goods had been carried by water to Yarmouth, and there exported contrary to law; and various things coming up the river, as salt, coals, &c. sold by defective measures, and herrings unlawfully packed; in order to prevent these abuses for the future, a water bailiff was appointed with an allowance of 2cs. a year from the commons, and meat and drink from the sheriffs; together with a moiety of all forfeited goods.

In 1544, the mayors feast was, for the first time, kept at the new hall, or frier's preachers church, which, with the site of that convent, had been lately conveyed to the city.

In 1545, one Rogers of Norfolk was condemned and suffered martyrdom, for opposing the six articles*.

In

* In 1539, an act passed for abolishing diversity of opinions in certain articles concerning the Christian religion: it is more commonly known by the name of the Bloody Statute; and enacts the penalty of hanging or burning against those,

1. Who by word or writing denied transubstantiation.

2. Who maintained that com-

munion in both kinds was necessary.

3. Or, that it was lawful for priests to marry,

4. Or, that vows of chastity may be broken.

5. Or, that private masses are unprofitable.

6. Or, that auricular confession is not necessary to salvation.

In 1546, on the twenty-eighth day of January, died king Henry the VIIIth, whose exequies were celebrated here with great pomp; as appears by the following notes taken from the chamberlain's account. ' Imprimis, the charge of a dyryge*, with
 ' three masses, and an herse set at Chryst's church†
 ' for the soul of king Henry the eighth. Paid for
 ' all charges of a herse with one hundred and twenty
 ' lyghts and divers floryshes, hangyngs and a mor-
 ' test‡ of wax, 40s. To the peynter for six scogeons§
 ' of the kyng's armys made with fine gold and bice
 ' 12s. and for six other scogeons 3s. Paid for ma-
 ' kyng a traverse about the herse, that no man shou'd
 ' come within it, and for rasyng an altar within the
 ' same, 25 s. Item, gave to thirteen poor men, that
 ' satte about the herse at dyryge and masses within
 ' the traverse, in the tyme of the fervyce in the
 ' quire, 2 s. For fetchyng things borrowed as a
 ' bere, fourms, a tabil for the altar, black hangyngs,
 ' crosse, basyn, &c. 9 d. Item, gafe to the clerks
 ' of Chryste church for many pains about the herse,
 ' hanging the altar, ryngyng the clocher|| bells, &c.
 ' 1 s. For cleaning a peice of black fresado that
 ' went about the traverse which was fore dropped
 ' with wax, 8 d. &c.'

B b

At

* Dirge: a solemn service used at interment.; from the teutonic, dyrke, to praise or extol.

† The cathedral, most commonly called Christ's church,

though dedicated to the Holy Trinity.

‡ An image of the deceased.

§ Escutcheous.

|| Or steeple.

At this time the proclamation for the free fair on Tomblaud ran as follows. 'Whereas our sovereign lord king Henry the VIIIth. by his letters patent, sealed with his great seal, hath granted to the mayor, sheriffs, citizens and commonalty of the city of Norwich, and to their successors, that they, their heirs, and successors may hold and kepe in the said city of Norwich, one fayer yere-ly, to be holden from the rising of the sun on the Saturday next before the feast of Pentecost, and to endure continually to the fall and going down of the same, on the Monday next after the feast of the Holy Trinity, by ten days, with all rights and commodities to a fayer appertaining, as in the same letters patent of our said sovereign lord king Henry the VIIIth. more at large it doth appear. Wherefore, all manner of persons, that will come to the said fayre, with their merchandise, goods, and chattels, shall and may freely come, to and from the same fayer, with their said merchandise, goods and chattels, without any toll, or other custom, to be taken of them, or any of them, for the same, during the said fair; and that all neat cattle and horses be bought and sold in the castle ditches and meadows there; and all sheep cattle in the streets of the city, as they have been accustomed; and all other chafery wares and merchandise at Tomblaud, and in the market of the said city; and if any should happen to be wronged by any officer of the said fair, that he come to Mr. Mayor of the said city, declaring the

‘ the same, and those wrongs shall be redressed by
 ‘ the said mayor, according to justice; and also if
 ‘ any man will sue by plaint, according to the law,
 ‘ for any contract or offence, or other personal ac-
 ‘ tion, that shall happen to be done within the time
 ‘ of the said fair, let him keep his day at the Guild-
 ‘ hall of this city before the steward of the said fair,
 ‘ and he shall be heard.’

March 8, 1546, king Edward VI. and the exe-
 cutors of his deceased father, granted to the mayor,
 sheriffs, citizens, and commonalty, the hospital of
 St. Giles in this city, now called the Old Mens
 hospital, with all the revenues thereto belonging,
 for the maintenance of poor people dwelling therein;
 all which the late king had promised to give them, at
 the request of the citizens, a little before his death.

In November following, an act passed, for con-
 tinuing the making of worsted yarn in Norfolk;
 whereby every person, in Norwich or Norfolk,
 was empowered to buy and sell, in open market,
 any wool of Norfolk growth, notwithstanding any
 former act or acts, restraining that liberty to the
 merchants of the staple only. It also made perpe-
 tual the act of 33 Henry VIII. and authorised all
 hatters, dwelling in Norwich, to buy worsted yarn,
 known by the name of middle-woofe-yarn, as here-
 tofore they used to do; so it be used in hat-making
 within the city only. This act was confirmed in
 the fifth year of Edward VI. when it was further
 enacted, that all wool growers be obliged to sell their
 wool within one year after the shearing.

The parliament also repealed the statute called the six articles; together with all acts or statutes, touching, mentioning, or in any wise concerning religious opinions, or the use of the scriptures in the English tongue.

On the last day of October, 1548, died Edward Wood, mayor; and on the fifth of November, William Rogers was chosen by the sheriffs and commons, exclusive of the aldermen, who suffered him to be sworn peaceably the same day; wisely concluding, that if they made any opposition, the blame of the approaching troubles, which they foresaw were ready to break out, and which did actually break out the following year, would be laid upon them.

Amongst various causes assigned for the numberless complaints and murmurings of the common people, the principal seems to be the inclosing the commons and waste lands, by which they foresaw that they were likely to be reduced to great misery. The protector, in order to redress these grievances, published a proclamation, commanding all persons who had made any new inclosures, to open them again by a fixed time. But the common people, taking advantage of this disposition in government to remedy the evils under which they laboured, rose in many parts in a tumultuous manner, and levelled the fences of the new inclosed lands, without waiting to see whether the owners of those lands would comply with the proclamation, or not.---The most dangerous commotions were those raised in
Devonshire

Devonshire and Norfolk, two very remote counties, but which seem to have adopted the same plan of action. They openly declared their hatred of all gentlemen; whom they taxed with covetousness, pride, extortion, and oppression: and in the whole of their proceedings, avowed the principles of the ancient levellers.

The inhabitants of Attleburgh, Eccles, Wilby, and the neighbouring towns, began the disturbances in these parts, by throwing down the fences which separated the common belonging to the manor of Wilby, from the adjoining ones of Attleburgh and Harpham. This being effected, they continued quiet 'till Wymondham fair, July 7, where collecting themselves together, they committed many outrages in that neighbourhood. They here pitched upon one Robert Kett, an inhabitant of Wymondham, a daring, resolute fellow, to be their captain, with whom they joined in commission William Kett, his brother, a butcher of the same place; a man remarkable for his desperate hardiness. The reputation of their leaders drew to them a great number of idle and profligate persons; so that now being, as they thought, sufficiently strong, and equal to any enterprize, they marched forward, after having laid waste Hetherfet, Wymondham, and most of the adjacent villages; and on the 10th of July encamped at Bowthorpe, where they were joined by many disorderly people from the city.

Thomas Codde, then mayor, with several of the aldermen and principal inhabitants, went to the camp

camp of the rebels, and used every method to dissuade them from their treasonable practices, and to return quietly to their own homes; but without effect. For they now perceiving, that if they continued in small bodies they might be easily crushed, drew together their scattered parties, and proceeded in one body by Sprowston to Moushold heath; having been denied a passage through the city. Here they seized on the noble palace belonging to the earl of Surrey, built on the site of the priory of St. Leonard, and, from its situation on the brow of the hill, called Mount Surrey. This they converted into a prison, after having destroyed the whole of the furniture; therein confining Sir Roger Wodehouse, sergeants Catlyn and Gawdy, with many other gentlemen, whom they had apprehended in their progress. The citizens immediately dispatched a messenger to know the king's pleasure in this critical conjuncture; and as they could not raise forces without his majesty's express command, they resolved to put the city into the best posture of defence they were able, and to keep constant guard themselves, for fear of surprize. Besides this great camp (as they called it) on Moushold heath, the rebels had a smaller one at Rising-chace; from which being soon drove, they came and joined their chief captain Kett; as did, at the same time, a large body from Suffolk, after having made an unsuccessful attempt upon the town of Yarmouth.

In order to keep up some shew of religion, divine service was performed in the camp both morning

ing and evening, by Thomas Coniers, at that time curate of St. Martin's at the Palace; whom they obliged constantly to pray for success to their undertakings: and to put some gloss upon their cause, they compelled the Mayor, Thomas Aldrich of Mangreen-hall, and Robert Watson, an excellent preacher, whom they chose to be their spiritual adviser, to be present at all their consultations, and to undertake with Kett the administration of their affairs: and by their prudent behaviour, the rebels were restrained from many excesses, which their madness prompted them to commit.

The meeting with no opposition, encouraged them to issue out warrants for furnishing the camp with provisions, in the following form: ' We the king's
' friends and deputies, do grant licence to all men
' to provide and bring into the camp at Moushold,
' all manner of cattle and provision of vittels, in
' what place soever they may find the same, so that
' no violence or injurie be done to any honest or
' poore man; commanding all persons, as they tender the king's honour and roiall majestie, and the
' releefe of the commonwelthe, to be obedient to
' us the governours, and to those whose names ensue.' Signed Robert Kett, &c.

A court of justice was now erected, consisting of Kett, and two assistants out of every hundred; which usually sat on a large spreading tree, floored and roofed for that purpose; from thence called the oak of reformation. From this court warrants were issued for the apprehending of many of the principal

pal gentlemen of the county ; and for throwing down the fences of commons lately inclosed.

Their number was by this time increased to 16,000, and their camp strongly fortified and stored with arms and ammunition of all kinds ; and with so great a profusion of provisions, that a fat sheep was sold for a groat.

In this distressed situation, the citizens behaved with the greatest prudence and loyalty ; and amongst the rest, Dr. Matthew Parker, afterwards archbishop of Canterbury, eminently distinguished himself: for one day going into the camp, as he frequently did, on purpose, if opportunity offered, to remind them of their duty, and to persuade them to return to it, he found Kett and his associates standing under the oak of reformation, earnestly pressing the mayor to deliver up the keys of the city, and to resign the government thereof into his hands ; to which Codde stoutly replied, ‘ that he
‘ would give his blood and life out of his body,
‘ before he would by villainy treacherously forsake
‘ the city, or through fear or cowardice wickedly
‘ cast off his allegiance to the king.’ The matter being debated with a good deal of heat on the part of the rebels, the doctor prudently retired ; and the next morning, taking with him his brother, Thomas Parker, afterwards mayor, went early to the camp, hoping by that time that their passions would be cooled. He arrived there whilst Coniers, their chaplain, was reading the Litany ; and judging this a proper opportunity for the purpose, stepped up
into

into the oak, and from thence preached an excellent sermon; in which he earnestly exhorted them to use with moderation the provision they had then in the camp, and not riotously and lavishly waste and consume it; he further advised them, by no means, to seek revenge of private displeasures, nor to chain or keep in irons those they had taken prisoners, nor to defile their hands with blood, in taking away any man's life wickedly and cruelly; and in conclusion of the whole, wished them to have regard to themselves and the common wealth, and to leave off their rash enterprize; to accept of the king's proffered mercy, and to shew him such honour now in his tender years, as might give them an assurance of enjoying him hereafter in his more ripe and flourishing state. The doctor had hardly finished his discourse, to which his audience had been very attentive, when a profligate fellow cried out, 'How long shall we suffer this hireling doctor, who being waged by gentlemen, is come hither with his tongue, which is sold and tied to serve their appetite? but for all his prating, let us bridle them, and bring them under the order of our law.'

A tumult hereupon ensued, and several arrows and javelins were thrown at the preacher, who had most probably been sacrificed to their ungovernable fury, had not their chaplain very prudently and seasonably set the Te Deum; and by the assistance of some singing men then present, performed it so elegantly, that the rebels taken with the musick, had their attention so drawn from the object of

their rage, as to give him an opportunity of escaping into the city. The next day the doctor, at St. Clement's church, took occasion, from one of the lessons, to expatiate on the nature and consequences of these riotous proceedings, in the hearing of several of the rebels, who suffered him to conclude his discourse without any interruption: however, on his coming out of the church, they took occasion to tell him, that they had been credibly informed, that he had three or four horses very able to serve the king, and therefore charged him to have them ready immediately after dinner, for their use: the doctor took very little notice of what they said to him, but on getting home, ordered some of his horses shoes to be taken off, and their hoofs pared to the quick; and others to be dawbed with ointment, as if they had been lamed with travelling: the rebels finding them in this condition, thought them not worth their meddling with. Soon after, the doctor perceiving that he could prevail nothing with them, prudently withdrew from the city, and happily escaped to Cambridge.

Numbers of gentlemen were daily brought to the camp and imprisoned; and large sums of money extorted from the city to save it from fire and pillage, with which it was frequently threatened; and which it had certainly undergone, but for the prudence and activity of the mayor and principal inhabitants. An accident happened, which, in appearance, gave some sort of sanction to the cause of the rebels, and proved the means of deceiving many ignorant

ignorant persons, and drawing them over to their party: several commissions directed to the gentlemen of the county, authorising them to use force for the repressing these commotions, unfortunately fell into their hands; from some of them they erased the names, and inserted their own in their rooms; from others they took the seals, and affixed them to forged commissions of their own drawing up; and then put them up at publick places: to induce the unwary and inconsiderate to conclude, that what they did, was by the king's authority.

Their number being now encreased to upwards of twenty thousand, they grew so disorderly that Ket found it extremely difficult to keep them within any sort of bounds: whatever was brought into the camp was consumed in the most wasteful and gluttonous manner; for besides swans, geese, hens, ducks, and all kinds of fowl without number, about three thousand bullocks and twenty thousand sheep were destroyed in a few days. In every part of the county the parks were laid open, and what deer they could catch, they killed and brought to the camp: and so wanton were they grown in iniquity, that they would oftentimes bring the gentlemen out of prison chained two and two together, to the tree of reformation, and demand of the people assembled there, what should be done with the prisoners; who would cry out with one voice, hang them! hang them! tho' they cou'd give no other reason for this rash judgment, but that they were gentlemen, and therefore not worthy to live.

Mr. Leonard Sotherton, a citizen of Norwich, who had escaped to London on his life being threatened by the rebels, attended on the king's council, and informed them of all their proceedings, their daily increase, and the destruction they denounced against the city and all gentlemen they could meet with: informing them likewise, that he had great reason to think, that many of them would willingly lay down their arms and embrace the king's pardon, if offered. Upon this a herald was sent directly with Sotherton to Norwich; who entering the camp declared, 'That the king had granted his free pardon to all that would depart to their homes; and, laying aside their armour, give over their traiterous begun enterprize.' hereupon almost all the multitude cried out, God save the king's majesty: and at the repetition thereof, many kneeled down, and with tears in their eyes commended the king's mercy; which they would have immediately embraced, had not Ket fiercely and stoutly answered 'That kings and princes were accustomed to grant pardons to such as are offenders, and not to others; and that he trusted he needed not any pardon, sith he had done nothing but what belonged to the duty of a true subject; and herewith he besought them not to forsake him, but to remember his promise, sith he was ready to spend his life in the quarrel,' The herald on hearing this called him traitor, and commanded John Pettibonne, the sword bearer of Norwich, to arrest him for treason; which occasioned so great confusion, as to determine

termine him to leave them, plainly foreseeing, that they would accept of no pardon; at the same time crying out with a loud voice, ‘ All ye that be the king’s friends come away with me.’ The mayor and several other gentlemen, who had been confined there, attended him, and entered the city by Bishopsgate, which was immediately shut, to prevent the rebels following them; this happened on the twenty first day of July. As soon as possible, orders were issued for shutting up the rest of the gates; and setting at liberty those gentlemen, whom the rebels had imprisoned in the castle, and other parts of the city. The citizens likewise undertook to guard the walls and gates, in hopes, that by depriving the rebels of the means of transporting victuals to their camp from that side of the river, they would be obliged to move their quarters. The next step was to ram-pire up Bishop’s-gate; and for their further defence ten of their largest ordnance were placed in the castle ditches; and the remaining city forces, not employed in guarding the walls, were appointed their particular rendezvous on any emergency, either in the market place, or cross streets. Things being thus disposed, a brisk cannonading began both from the city and camp: when the rebels perceiving that their artillery cou’d have but little effect, whilst it remained on the top, removed it to the foot of the hill, and from thence began to play against the walls; to answer which the citizens removed theirs from the castle ditches into the meadows, from whence a continual firing was kept up the greatest
part

part of the night. But the chief difficulty the magistrates had to encounter with, was to keep the common people, who were principally inclined to favour Ket's cause, from carrying him intelligence of whatever was concluded upon for the defence of the city; it not being in the power of the magistrates so far to restrain them, as to prevent their frequent passing to and from the camp, and carrying with them ammunition of various kinds, which they often took by force from the inhabitants.

The communication being thus cut off with the country on the other side the river, the camp began to be much distressed for want of provisions; upon which Ket sent two of his company to demand a truce for a few days, with liberty of bringing provisions to his camp through the city, threatening in case of refusal to lay it waste, with fire and sword: the mayor and aldermen returned for answer, that they would not suffer traitors to have any passage through their city: this enraged the rebels to that degree, that rushing violently down the hill, they made a most desperate attack upon Bishopsgate, but were as bravely repulsed: 'till some of their party within the city spreading an alarm, as if the rebels had entered on the other side, so far drew off the attention of the citizens from that part, where the attack first began, as to leave it almost defenceless; this the rebels perceived, and quickly turned to their advantage, for part of them having swam cross the river, beat off the guard from the gate, and opened a passage for their whole force.

force. The first thing they did was to convey all the ammunition and military stores they found there to their camp: whilst they were thus employed, the herald, who waited to see whether they would submit to the king's mercy, the time fixed for their complying with the terms of it not being yet expired, proceeded directly with the mayor and principal citizens to the market place, and made them a second offer of free pardon, if they would lay down their arms, and depart quietly to their several homes; withal assuring them, that all those who neglected this opportunity of mercy, should be punished with death.

But now perceiving that matters were coming to a crisis, seized on the mayor, and many of the principal inhabitants, and kept them in irons at Surrey house; where some of them remained in that situation till his troops were defeated, and he himself taken.

Codde was a man of remarkable integrity, and extremely beloved by the citizens; who, fearing his life to be in danger from the frequent threats of the rebels, and their often jesting upon his name, and calling out to one another 'Let us come together to morrow, for we shall see a Codd's head sold in the camp for a penny;' applied themselves to Thomas Aldrich* a man of great authority amongst

* A man, who by his wisdom, gravity and modesty, had gained the respect of all men; and gotten such an ascendancy, even over these profligate wretches, that they seldom neg-

mongst them, and through his influence, so far regained him his liberty, that he was permitted to be at large in the camp, and even sometimes to go into the city: but as he could not continue there, he appointed Augustine Steward his deputy, and committed to him the government and defence of it in his absence.

The council finding on the return of the herald, that nothing but force would avail, sent down William Parr, marquis of Northampton, with fifteen hundred horse to relieve the city: he was accompanied by the lords Sheffield and Wentworth, sir Anthony Denney, sir Henry Parker, sir Rich. Southwell, sir Ralph Sadler, sir John Clere, sir Ralph Powlet, sir Richard Lee, sir John Gates, sir Thomas Paston, sir Henry Bedingfield, sir John Suliard, sir William Waldegrave, sir John Cutts, sir Thomas Cornwallis, &c. knights; many esquires and gentlemen, and a small number of Italians under the command of Malatesta, an experienced soldier: this the rebels taking advantage of, filled the country with complaints that England was on the point of being conquered by, and subjected to, foreigners. The marquis being arrived within a mile of the city, sent to demand entrance, and to have the government of it put into his hands: on which the deputy mayor, sheriffs, and principal citizens immediately waited upon his lordship, and delivered to

neglected his advice: by which means he was enabled to be of the utmost service to his country, in restraining them from many violences, which his authority kept them from committing.

to him the sword, declaring their readiness to receive him into the city, and to obey him in all things, as the king's representative. The marquis entered the city by St. Stephen's gate, the sword being carried before him by sir Richard Southwell bare headed; and marching directly to the market-place, gave the necessary orders for putting it into a proper posture of defence. The watch being set, the market was appointed for the general rendezvous, and a large fire ordered to be kept there: about midnight the rebels made a furious discharge of their artillery, from whence it was concluded that they designed to make a general attack; orders were therefore given that all the gates on the opposite side of the city from the enemy, and the ruinous places in the walls should be rampired, to lessen the soldiers duty, and to keep together a larger body of them in case of necessity. Whilst these things were doing, the whole force of the rebels made a desperate assault upon the city, which numbers of them entered; and a terrible engagement ensued; in which the rebels, after having lost three hundred men, were forced to retire to their camp. The next day, the first of August, the rebels made a second irruption into the city, by the hospital meadows, and marching up Holme or Bishopsgate street, attacked the marquis's ordnance at the entrance of St. Martin's plain; when a sharp skirmish ensued, in which of the rebels about one hundred and forty were killed, and of the king's and city's forces about fifty; besides a great number wounded on both sides: the

greatest loss sustained that day, was in the death of the much lamented lord Sheffield, who fighting bravely amidst the thickest of the enemy, was thrown by his horse falling into a trench; at which instant being surrounded by numbers of the rebels, one of them, whose name was Fulke, basely murdered him with a club; although he had discovered himself, and had offered the villain a very large reward to save his life: with him fell many other worthy gentlemen and valiant soldiers, who were that day buried in the church of St. Martin at the palace, as appeareth by the following entry in the register of that parish, '1549, the lord Sheffield with thirty five others, were here buried August 1.' The rebels encouraged by the death of that noble lord, whom they greatly dreaded on account of his extraordinary reputation for valour and skill in war, broke into the city on every side, and by their numbers obliged the marquis to retire out of it. Upon the retreat of the king's forces, the rebels fired the city in different places, whereby Holmstrete, the hospital of St. Giles, Bishop's, Magdalen, Pockthorp and Berstreet gates, with a prodigious number of houses, and other buildings in various parts of it were entirely consumed; and the whole in all probability would have been in ashes, had not a great quantity of rain, at that time, providentially fallen. During this calamity, the houses of the wealthiest citizens were stripped of every thing valuable, especially of those who had fled; the rebels deeming such to be traitors, and enemies to their king and country.

These things being reported to the council, orders were immediately sent to John Dudley earl of Warwick, a general of undoubted courage, and extensive experience, to march with the troops under his command, which had been raised for the scottish war, to the relief of the unhappy citizens: he was accompanied by the marquis of Northampton, the lords Willoughby, Powis and Bray, Ambrose Dudley his son, afterwards earl of Warwick, and Robert Dudley, his brother, afterwards earl of Leicester, Sir Thomas Gresham, Sir Marmaduke Constable, Sir Edmund Knevet, Sir Thomas Palmer, Sir Andrew Flammock, William Devereux, son to lord Ferrers of Chertsey, Hen. Willoughby, Esq; and many of the principal citizens of Norwich, who joined the general at Cambridge.

On the 23d of August the earl rested his troops on the plain between Norwich and Eaton wood, and lodged himself at Sir Thomas Gresham's at Intwood. While the army laid here, he sent Norroy king at arms, to summon the city; information whereof being brought to Ket, he obliged Augustine Steward, the mayor's deputy, and Robert Rugge, who was mayor the following year, to go and learn the earl's pleasure: upon being told that unless they immediately opened their gates, and gave the king's army quiet admittance, they would be deemed traitors, and punished as such; they answered, 'that they believed themselves to be the most miserable of men, 'in that they could not now fulfil their loyalty to 'their prince; which brought them under the unhappy

‘dilemma of either loosing their lives or their good
‘name; but hoped his majesty would pardon them
‘as they had not consented to any thing of this re-
‘bellion; but with loss of goods, and peril of life,
‘as far as it was in their power, had done their
‘utmost to keep the citizens in good order, and
‘dutiful obedience: but that, whereas there were
‘great numbers of Kett’s army poor and naked,
‘without armour or weapon, who seemed as if they
‘were weary of their doings, they humbly request-
‘ed that it might please the earl once more to offer
‘them the king’s pardon, and they hoped it would
‘be gladly accepted, and the further effusion of
‘blood be thereby prevented.’ The earl, fearing
for those gentlemen whom the rebels detained in
prison, sent Norroy with a trumpet, to offer them
a general pardon; on his coming to the top of the
hill, he began with reminding them of the king’s
gracious goodness, who had already several times
offered them pardon, if they would return to their
obedience; of the misery they had brought upon the
commonwealth, the good of which they expressed
so much veneration for; of the many murders, con-
flagrations, and other horrible crimes of which they
had been guilty; of the abundant mischiefs they
had brought upon themselves, and of what they
must expect from the wrath of God and the king’s
army, now ready to execute it; further assuring
them, that if they now refused to return to mercy
and pardon, they must expect no further offers of
that kind. Many of them hereupon seemed to be
touched

touched with remorse, and inclinable to return to their duty and allegiance ; till some incendiaries, fearing a general defection, began to cry out that this was not the king's herald, but some impostor dressed in a gay coat, made up of church vestments, sent on purpose to deceive them with hopes of pardon, thereby the more easily to get them under the power of their oppressors ; who no doubt would amply revenge themselves, when they had foolishly parted with every means of defence : this spirit of dissension was further inflamed by the indiscreet zeal of one of the king's friends, who, being provoked by the indecent words and actions of a boy, who grossly reproached both the king and his officer, shot him through the body : the confusion consequent upon this rash action, hindered any further parley ; for the rebels crying out that they were betrayed, retreated to another part of the hill, exclaiming against the treachery, as they termed it, of Norroy and his attendants. The earl finding all hopes of accommodation cut off, moved forward towards the city ; and ordered part of his troops to force the postern, called Brazen door, which the rebels had blocked up with stones and earth : another detachment entered at St. Stephen's gate, after having nearly battered it down, and at several breaches in the wall, which they had made between that gate and St. Giles's. The main body, under the command of the earl himself, marched in at Westwick or St. Bennet's gate, and proceeded directly to the Market-place, where he fixed his head quarters :
the

the inhabitants were commanded under pain of death to keep within doors and to have their shops and windows closely shut; and two or three were hanged for disobeying the order: by this means the earl could know which of the citizens were concerned in the rebellion, whilst it gave opportunity to several, who had precipitately joined in it, of throwing themselves on the earl's mercy; who freely pardoned them on their complying with the above command. The carriages belonging to the army, were all this time entering at St. Bennet's gate; but through hurry, no orders having been given to the drivers where to stop, several of them laden with guns, powder and other ammunition, were driven through the city as far as Bishopsgate, and there seized by parties of the rebels, who had not already quitted it; but capt. Drury coming up very fortunately, retook the greatest part of them, as they were conducting to their camp. The rebels who yet remained in the city, had frequent skirmishes with the earl's troops; intelligence whereof being carried to the earl, he marched directly by St. John's of Maddermarket church, into Wymer or St. Andrew's street, where the principal body of the rebels was posted, and immediately attacked them: the enemy received him with a cloud of arrows; but capt. Drury with his arquebussiers* plied them with so terrible a volley of shot, that they soon gave way, leaving 130 dead on the spot, besides several prisoners, who were ordered to immediate execution; the rest fled to

* Soldiers armed with arquebusses or muskets.

to their camp, and to the great relief and joy of the inhabitants, left the king's troops in full possession of the city.

A misfortune happened which had like to have been attended with fatal consequences to the citizens, and greatly raised the drooping spirits of the rebels: the earl intending to march up the hill on the morrow, and to attack the rebel camp, left his ordnance without Bishopsgate under the guard of a troop of welshmen; these being but few in number, the rebels concluded that they would not be able to resist a sudden onset, and rushing furiously down the hill, attacked them so vigorously, that unable to stand the shock, they were compelled to give way, and leave the artillery in the enemy's possession; the king's master gunner was shot through the head in the skirmish. The rebels being now supplied with a fresh stock of balls and powder, began a severe cannonade upon the city; in the course of which the walls and buildings received a considerable damage, but much less than they would have done, had not their skill in gunnery been very contemptible. After this loss the earl ordered all the gates to be well barricadoed, and White Friars bridge to be broken down; and committed the defence of Bishopsgate and that part of the city to lord Willoughby; thus providing against any sudden assault from the enemy. The next day being the twenty fifth of August, notwithstanding the foregoing precautions, a large body of the rebels crossed the river at Conisford, and set fire to the houses in several places, whereby

whereby an incredible quantity of corn and other merchandize, there laid up to be conveyed to Yarmouth, together with almost two whole parishes, and many buildings in the neighbouring ones were consumed. The view of the rebels in this conflagration, was to divide the earl's troops, who they supposed would be so fully employed in extinguishing the fire, as to give them an opportunity of forcing some other part of the city, but the earl foreseeing their drift, gave orders for his soldiers to keep their several stations, leaving the care of stopping the further progress of the fire to the citizens themselves. This however cast a great damp upon the spirits of some of Warwick's officers, who, despairing of success, would have persuaded the earl to have abandoned the city, as not having men sufficient to guard it; to which the earl stoutly replied, 'Do your hearts fail you so soon? or are you so mad to think, that so long as life is in me I will consent to such dishonour? should I leave the city, heaping up to myself, and likewise to you, such shame and reproof, as worthily might be imputed to us a shame for ever? I will rather suffer whatever fire or sword can work against me:' then drawing his sword, the rest of the nobles doing the same, he commanded them to kiss each other's swords, agreeable to ancient custom used in war, in times of extreme danger; thereby binding themselves with a solemn vow, never to leave the city, until they had either vanquished the rebels, or died manfully in fight for the honour of their king and country.

On

On the twenty sixth, being the day following, the earl received a very seasonable reinforcement, by the arrival of fourteen hundred Swiss soldiers; who were very kindly treated, and liberally entertained by the citizens, as the rest of the army had hitherto been. The rebels being persuaded that they must come to a general engagement the next day, kept up one another's spirits by the credit they gave to, and the frequent repetition of certain vain prophecies, and superstitious verses; such as

The country Gnoffs, Hob, Dick and Hick,
 With clubbs and clouted shoon,
 Shall fill the vale, of Duffin's dale,
 With slaughter'd bodies soon.

And

The heedless men, within the dale,
 Shall there be slain, both great and small.

By a wrong application of these equivocating prophecies, they were induced to quit an advantageous hill, that by its situation had enabled them to do the mischiefs they had already done, and rendered the earl's horse of but little service: being also pinched with the want of provisions, which the earl's parties had rendered more difficult to come at, they marched for the adjacent valley called Duffin's dale, after having set fire to their huts and tents, where they strongly intrenched themselves, and determined to hazard an engagement. The following day the earl marched towards the enemy, thro' St.

Martin's at Oak gate; but before he came within sight of them, sir Edmund Knevet and sir Thomas Palmer, knights, were sent to acquaint them, that so unbounded was the king's clemency, that if even now they would repent and lay down their arms, they should every one of them be pardoned, one or two only excepted. This offer being unanimously refused, the earl gave orders for the attack; which as soon as the rebels perceived, they placed all the gentlemen they had detained prisoners, in the front of the battle chained together, to the intent they might fall by the swords of their friends: but so prudently was the attack led on by captain Drury, that most of them escaped. The king's standard bearer being killed by a cannon ball, so affected the earl and exasperated his army, that he ordered a general discharge of his artillery to be made amongst the rebels; which seems to have so far disconcerted them, as to render them an easy conquest: for the earl's light horse coming up at the same time, broke in amongst them before they could recover themselves, or close their ranks. The main body of the rebels army being thus entirely broken, a general flight ensued, in which Robert Kett their principal commander took the lead; in the pursuit more than three thousand five hundred of the rebels were killed, and a great number wounded.

There remained still a party of reserve unattacked; who having barricadoed themselves strongly with the carriages belonging to the army, seemed determined to stand it out to the last extremity. In

their

their situation the attacking them would have been desperate, and the forcing their intrenchments must have been attended with very great loss: the earl therefore to avoid further effusion of blood, once more offered them pardon, upon condition that they wou'd lay down their arms; which they said they were ready to do, if they cou'd be assured of their lives; but that they looked upon this message only as a stratagem of the earl's to get them into his power, and then hang them up: upon this answer, orders were given for the attack; but before they were put in execution, as a proof of a most humane disposition, the earl sent to know whether, if he came himself and assured them of pardon, they wou'd submit: to which they immediately answered, 'that
' they had such confidence in his honour, that if
' he would promise them the king's pardon, they
' wou'd instantly lay down their arms, and rely on
' his and the king's mercy.' The earl hereupon went to them, and on Norroy's reading the king's commission, the whole company of the rebels crying out God save king Edward, thankfully embraced the terms of it. After the battle the whole of the plunder was given to the soldiers, who openly sold it in the market place. On the king's part many gentlemen of distinguished merit were slain, and amongst the rest Henry Willoughby, esquire, son of sir Henry Willoughby, of Willoughby in Northamptonshire, ----- Throckmorton, ----- Lucie, of Northamptonshire, Giles Forster, of Temple Balsal, Henry Wilby of Middleton hall, Thomas Lynsye,

Lynfye of Charlcote, all in Warwickshire, esquires, with many others; the four last were buried in the chancel of St. Simon's church in one grave. The next day, on intelligence being received that Robert Ket was apprehended in a barn at Swanington, the earl dispatched thither twenty horsemen, to conduct him to Norwich; and the same day nine of the principal ringleaders (the two Kets excepted) were sentenced to be drawn hanged and quartered at the oak of reformation; thirty at the gallows without Magdalen gate; and forty nine at those by the cross in the market; in the whole about three hundred suffered. Some gentlemen who had been cruelly treated by the rebels, seemed to think that the earl had not made sufficient examples, and urged him to further instances of severity; upon which he nobly replied ' There must be measure kept in all things, and especially in punishment with death we ought to beware that we do not exceed: I know well such wicked doings deserve no small revenge, and the offenders are worthy to be most sharply chastised: but yet how far shall we go? shall we not at least shew some mercy? is there no place for pardon? what shall we then do? shall we hold the plough ourselves? and harrow our own lands? and to shew the great regard he paid to his word, when some of the busiest of the rebels were brought before him, as persons proper to make examples of, upon Norroy's telling him, that they had submitted on offer of pardon, he declared that none shou'd suffer who had accepted that offer,

On the day following, the earl, lords, and gentlemen, with the citizens, went to the church of St. Peter at Mancroft, and returned God thanks for this great deliverance; and the twenty seventh of August, the day on which the rebels were defeated, was appointed by the corporation to be observed as a day of thanksgiving for ever: the entry of which is as follows ‘ Be it remembered, that by the
 ‘ poure of Allmightie God, and of oure soveraigne
 ‘ Lord the King’s Majestie, K. E. VI. in sending
 ‘ down the noble Erl of Warwyck, his graces lyeu-
 ‘ tenant, with other nobills and men of worship,
 ‘ with his majesties poure into his worshipful citie;
 ‘ and by the goodnes of God upon the twenty se-
 ‘ venth day of August, one thousand five hundred
 ‘ and forty nine, the said Erle &c. upon Musholde
 ‘ heath vanquished Robert Kette and all his hool
 ‘ nomber of adherents of their most wicked rebelli-
 ‘ on, and ded suppressse them and delivered this
 ‘ cittee from the great daunger, trouble and peril it
 ‘ was in, like to have been lost for ever: wherefore
 ‘ by the good advyce of the Lord Thomas, now bi-
 ‘ shop of Norwich, with the assent of the mayor,
 ‘ sherreves, &c. it is ordeyned and enacted, that
 ‘ from henceforth for ever, upon the twenty seventh
 ‘ day of August yerely, for the benefit that we ob-
 ‘ teyned by our delyverance that day, the mayor
 ‘ for the time being, shall command his officers to
 ‘ to gyve warnyng to every inhabitant in their ward
 ‘ to sper and shut in their shoppes; and both man,
 ‘ woman and child, to repair to their parish churches,
 ‘ after

‘ after they have rung in, at the houre of seven of
‘ the clocke in the morning, there to remayn in sup-
‘ plication and heryng divine service, and to gyve
‘ humble thanks to God, and pray for the kyng
‘ hartely, for that delyvery of this cittee, &c. and
‘ the servyce once doon, that every parish ring a
‘ solempne peall with all their belles, to the laud
‘ and praise of God, and the great rejoicing of the
‘ peopull for ever, and so to depart every man
‘ to his occupation or busyness.’ And to expreis
their gratitude to the earl, and the high sence they
had of his services they placed the ragged staff, the
cognizance or badge of that earl over all the city
gates, and the doors of their dwelling houses. The
two brothers Robert and William Ket, were com-
mitted to the tower of London, and being shortly
after convicted of high treason, on the twenty ninth
of November in the same year, were delivered to
sir William Windham high sheriff of Norfolk, and
by him conducted, the one to Wymondham, and
the other to Norwich. Robert being brought to the
foot of Norwich castle strongly ironed, was drawn
up, by a rope fixed about his neck, to a gibbet
erected on its top, and there left hanging till his bo-
dy was intirely wasted: William his brother, had
the like sentence executed upon him at Wymond-
ham, and his body left to consume on the top of that
steeple.

This Ket, as Fuller observes, was more wealthy
than the generality of those of his business; and as
Stow says, cou’d spend fifty pounds a year in land,
and

and was worth in goods above one thousand marks: his family was one of the most antient and flourishing in Wymondham, for in the twenty second of Edward the fourth, John Knyght, alias Ket, was a principal owner there: after his conviction it was presented at a court holden for the king's manor there, that Robert Knyght, alias Ket, who was hanged upon Norwich castle for treason, died seized of thirty acres of land held of the said manor, which escheated to the king; who of his great clemency regranted them to William son and heir of the said Robert, and his heirs for ever. The earl, on his leaving the city, directed the magistrates to act by the king's commission, 'till a new charter could be obtained; their former ones becoming void on the delivery of the sword to the marquis of Northampton; the city from that time, being in the king's hands.

In November following a new charter was granted, dated the fourteenth of that month in the third year of the king's reign: in it every former charter is recited at length and confirmed, beginning with that of Henry the second; and all forfeitures of liberties, together with all suits and demands which he, or his successors, had, or might have, for any thing acted or done by the citizens, are, by it, released and remitted.

Peace being now restored, the parliament passed an act, remitting for three year's to come, all fees farms paid by any city, borough, or town corporate, in England and Wales, provided that the said fee

fee farms were expended in repairing their walls, bridges, gates, &c. and in setting the poor to work. The coin at this time became so greatly diminished by clipping that in 1550 a proclamation was issued, ordering, that the shilling shou'd go for no more than six pence, and the groat for two pence only.

In 1551, the prices of grain and provisions were as followeth; of wheat 7s. a comb; malt 4s. 6d. barley 4s. oats 3s. beef 1s. 6d. a stone; mutton 1s. 3d. a quarter; butter 3d. a pint; and hard cheese 2d. a pound. And in the same year, an act passed for the true making of woollen cloth in Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, &c. in which their lengths, breadths, &c. are fixed. And another, to continue the preservation, and good-making, of hats, dornecks, and coverlets, at Norwich; in which it is enacted; that no person shall make any hats, or weave any dornecks, or coverlets, unless in the city, or in some corporate or market town in the county, except in the town of Pulham in Norfolk, where the said busineses had for some time been carried on.

About the middle of April, in the same year, the disease called *ephemera britannica*, *fudor anglicus*, the english sweat, or sweating sickness, broke out at Shrewsbury, and spreading by degrees all over the kingdom, ended its progress in the north, in the beginning of October. The learned Dr. Caius describes it as a new, strange, and violent disease, which generally killed the persons attacked in nine or ten hours: if they slept, to which all then naturally

naturally inclin'd, death ensued in six hours ; if they took the least cold, in three. It raged most violently in the strongest constitutions ; few antient people, or children, were seized with it, or if they were, it rarely proved fatal : and what was very extraordinary, no foreigner died of it. It first made its appearance in England, in the reign of Henry VII. but never raged so furiously as at this time ; from 800 to 960 persons dying of it in one week in London. The most effectual remedy was, for the person seized with it to lye down in his clothes for twenty-four hours, and neither to eat or drink during that time, or at least but moderately.

In 1553, commissioners were sent throughout the kingdom, to take to the king's use, all the plate, vestments, money, and ornaments, belonging to the several churches therein ; leaving to each of them one cup only, and a cloth for the communion table.

On the death of Edward VI. which happened on the 6th of July, 1553, the Lady Jane Grey, whom he had appointed his successor, by letters patent under the great seal, was proclaimed queen : but the princess Mary, the king's sister, resolving to support her claim, sent a message from Kenninghall in Norfolk, whither she had retired on the news of her brother's death, commanding the lords of the council to notify her accession to the throne ; which they absolutely refused to do. During her continuance there, she was joined by many of the nobility and principal gentlemen of Norfolk and Suffolk, as Sir Henry Jerningham, Sir Henry Bedingfield, Sir

William Drury, Sir John Shelton, Sir John Mordaunt, son to Lord Mordaunt, Sir Thomas Wharton, son to Lord Wharton, Mr. John Sulliard, Mr. Richard Freston, Sergeant Morgan, Mr. Richard Heigham, the earls of Bath and Suffex, Mr. Henry Ratcliffe, &c.

On the 18th of July the princess was proclaimed here; and one hundred soldiers, raised by the city for her service, were sent to join her at Framlingham castle, whither she had retired as to a place of greater strength than Kenninghall, and more conveniently situated for her retreating into Flanders, in case she had failed of success. The earl of Warwick, lately created duke of Northumberland, marched against her as far as St. Edmund's Bury, from whence, being disappointed of the succours he had been made to expect, he retired back to Cambridge, and there proclaimed the princess Mary queen.

On the 19th of July the Lords proclaimed her in London: whereupon, breaking up her camp at Framlingham, then consisting of 14,000 men, she set forward for London, and entered that city on the 3d of August; and took possession of a crown, for which she stood principally indebted to the gentlemen of Norfolk and Suffolk: but these their services were very soon forgotten, as well as the promises made to them respecting religion: some petitioners on that head being plainly told, 'that members must obey their head, and not expect to rule it.' And to prevent any farther applications

tions of so disagreeable a nature, one Dobbes, a gentleman who lived near Wymndham, was set in the pillory three days successively, for reminding the queen of her former promises.

The duke of Norfolk being now released from his imprisonment in the Tower, the citizens, to express the great regard they had of him, presented him at his palace of Kenninghall with a hoghead of white wine, one ditto of red, two ditto of claret, six sugar loaves, weighing sixty pounds, and two dozen of wax torches.

In 1554, the walls between Pockthorp and Magdalen gates being much decayed, the ward was taxed by the aldermen of the same, agreeable to ancient usage, for the repairing thereof. And the same year was the statute made concening Russels-fattins and fattins-reverses, which for many years had been made abroad of Norfolk wool; but being now much better manufactured in this city, the mayor and several of the aldermen and citizens were thereby constituted a body corporate, under the name of 'The wardens and fellowship of the mistery of russels-fattins, fattins-reverses, and fustians of Norwich making within the said city of Norwich;' with power to make ordinances and punish offenders.

On the 23d of November, 1555, an aid was levied on the inhabitants, for defraying the expenses of a new charter of confirmation, and of the perambulation of the city bounds: the charter bears date the third of April following, and was confirmed by parliament: in it the limits and bounds of

the city and county of the same, are thus described ;
‘ From the river Wensome, which river was for-
‘ merly granted to the city, by the outward part
‘ or bank of the river called Trowse-eye to Trowse
‘ bridge; and from Trowse bridge, by the outward
‘ bank of the river, including the whole river, to
‘ Lakenham bridge; and from Lakenham bridge
‘ to Harforde, including the river to the out-
‘ ward bank; and from thence to the outward bank
‘ of the river to Cringleford bridge; and thence by
‘ by the outward bank of the river to Heilefden
‘ bridge; and from thence to the water of Heilef-
‘ den old water mill damme; and from that water
‘ by the highway leading directly through Heilef-
‘ den town, by the common lane leading from the
‘ east part of an inclosure called Heilefden wood;
‘ and from the north end of that lane, by a certain
‘ green way leading directly to a certain parcel of
‘ ground, upon which a cross, called the white cross
‘ formerly stood, it being in the highway leading
‘ from Norwich to Horsham St. Faith’s; and thence
‘ directly to the north part of an inclosure called
‘ Little Mushold, and by the north part of an in-
‘ closure now or late in the tenure of John Cryke-
‘ maye, sen; and thence directly to the north part
‘ of an inclosure called Wrenne Park, containing
‘ two acres, now or late occupied by John Norgate;
‘ and thence to the joining of two ways, north and
‘ east of the said inclosure called Wrenne Park,
‘ of which two ways, one leads to Norwich, and the
‘ other to Magdalen chappel; and from the said
‘ joining of the two ways directly to an inclosure
late

' late alderman Nicholas Sywhat's, now John Cor-
 ' bet's esquire, called the Saffron Close, leaving the
 ' said inclosure on the north part; and so from the
 ' said inclosure on a green way leading from Nor-
 ' wich to Thorp, and by that way bending west, to
 ' the north end of the common way leading from
 ' the aforesaid highway to the river Wenfom, by
 ' the manor of Newton, called Newton hall; and
 ' by the same water eastward, including the whole
 ' water to Hardly Cross, and so returning and taking
 ' in the whole river Wenfom, to the outward bank
 ' of Trowse-eye river aforesaid; all which is in the
 ' county of the said city, and all within these limits
 ' are now incorporated into the city and county
 ' thereof, except out of the premises the whole castle
 ' of Norwich, and the shire house, and all the land
 ' and ground within the scite of them both.' The
 corporation hath also by this charter, a full power to
 perambulate these bounds yearly, or as often as they
 please; and the liberties of all persons within the said
 county, and the several towns, hamlets, and pre-
 cincts thereof, are reserved to them and their heirs, in
 as ample a manner as before the making of this
 charter.

This year wheat sold at 40s a quarter, oats 16s.
 and barley at 32s. but the following year wheat
 fell to 10s. 4d. a quarter, barley to 4s. 4d.
 oats to 2s. 4d. and rye to 2s. 8d.

During this reign a furious persecution was
 raised against all who opposed the superstition
 and tyranny of the church of Rome; during
 which there perished in the flames, according
 to the most credible historians, five bishops,
 twenty

twenty-one divines, eight gentlemen, eighty-four artificers, one hundred husbandmen, servants and labourers, twenty-six wives, twenty widows, nine virgins, two boys, and two infants, one of them springing out of its mother's womb, whilst at the stake. Besides these foregoing, sixty-four persons, of different ranks and stations, were presented for their faith; of whom seven were whipped, sixteen died in prison, and several laid under sentence of condemnation, but were happily delivered by the death of this bigotted queen, which happened on the 7th of November, 1558.

Those who suffered here, in the Lollard's pit without Bishopsgate, as contumacious heretics, were William Carman, of Hingham; Simon Miller, merchant of Lynn; Elizabeth Cooper, a pewterer's wife of St. Andrew's parish; Richard Crashfield, of Wymondham; Cicely, the wife of Edmund Ormes, of the parish of St. Lawrence, worsted weaver; William Seaman, husbandman, of Mendlesham; Thomas Carman; Thomas Hudson, of Aylesham, glover; and Richard Yeoman, a devout minister, of seventy years of age, curate to that learned martyr Dr. Rowland Taylor, rector of Hadleigh in Suffolk.

The year 1558 is memorable for a severe mortality, which raged throughout the kingdom, attended with a great scarcity of corn and all other provisions: in this city died ten aldermen.

Ten days after the death of her sister, Elizabeth was proclaimed queen of England, and crowned the 13th of January following: on the 25th of which month,

month the parliament met at Westminster, which passed an act for the uniformity of common prayer and service in the church, and administration of the sacraments; and declared the queen the supreme head of the church of England.

In 1560, the duke of Norfolk requested the city to assist the town of Yarmouth in making their haven, on which they sent them two hundred marks; on this express condition, that no impositions or customs should be laid on the citizens of Norwich; but that they were to be left in full possession of all such liberties, as they had formerly enjoyed.

This year the earls of Northumberland and Huntington, the lords Thomas Howard and Willoughby, with many other nobles and knights, paid a visit to the duke of Norfolk, and were entertained with their retinue at the duke's palace: during their stay, they diverted themselves with shooting and other martial exercises on Moushold heath. The guild happening at this time, William Mingay, Esq; then mayor, invited them and their ladies to the feast; John Suckling, baker, Thomas Layer, and Christopher Layer, merchants, and Lawrence Wood, scrivener, being the four feast-makers. At the entertainment the duke and dutchess of Norfolk sat first, then the three earls of Northumberland, Huntington and Surrey, lord Thomas Howard, lord Scroop and his lady, lord and lady Bartlet, lord Abergavenny, with many other peers, knights and ladies, who all expressed the greatest satisfaction at their generous reception. The mayor's share of the expense was one pound twelve

twelve shillings and nine-pence, the feast makers bearing the rest; his bill was as follows.

	£.	s.	d.
Eight stone of beef, at 8d. a stone, and a			
firloin by - - -	0	5	8
Two collars of brawn - - -	0	1	0
Four cheefes, at 4d. a cheefe - - -	0	1	4
Eight pints of butter - - -	0	1	6
A hinder quarter of veal - - -	0	0	10
A leg of mutton - - -	0	0	5
A fore quarter of veal - - -	0	0	5
Loin of mutton and shoulder of veal - - -	0	0	9
Breast and coat of mutton - - -	0	0	7
Six pullets - - -	0	1	0
Four couple of rabbits - - -	0	1	8
Four brace of partridges - - -	0	2	0
Two Guinea cocks - - -	0	1	6
Two couple of mallard - - -	0	1	0
Thirty-four eggs - - -	0	0	6
Bushel of flower - - -	0	0	6
Peck of oatmeal - - -	0	0	2
Sixteen white bread loaves - - -	0	0	4
Eighteen loaves of white wheat bread - - -	0	0	9
Three loaves of messin bread - - -	0	0	3
Nutmegs, mace, cinnamon, and cloves - - -	0	0	3
4lb. Barbary sugar - - -	0	1	0
Sixteen oranges - - -	0	0	2
A barrel of double strong beer - - -	0	2	6
A barrel of table beer - - -	0	1	0
A quarter of wood - - -	0	2	2
		Two	

Two gallons of white wine and Canary	0	2	0
Fruit, almonds, sweet water, perfumes	0	0	4
The cook's wages	0	1	2
Total	1	12	9

In 1564, May 17, the queen impowered the city to purchase two hundred pounds per annum in mortmain: and whereas the dower of women in this city was anciently a moiety of house and land; it appears about this time to have been a third part only.

In 1565, the worsted manufacture being much decayed, the mayor, sheriffs &c. waited upon the duke of Norfolk at his palace, to consult with him what were the properest steps to be taken on this occasion; when it was resolved to invite hither some of the strangers who had fled from the persecution raised against them in the Netherlands by the duke of Alva, and settled themselves at London and Sandwich, under the queen's protection; who had granted them a licence for the making Flanders commodities of wool in her majesty's dominions. Upon the duke's application, and at his own charge, the queen granted letters patent for the fixing here thirty master workmen, with ten servants to each of them, in the whole three hundred and thirty Dutch and Walloons; who immediately on their arrival set up manufactures of bayes, fays, arras, mock-ades, &c. and in a very short time their number increased to three thousand and upwards. The Dutch

congregation had the choir of the friers preachers church assigned them for their religious assemblies, which they still enjoy : the Walloon or French congregation, at the first made use of the bishop's chapel; but afterward had the church of St. Mary at Tombland assigned them, which they also still enjoy; tho' both congregations are now greatly reduced, and almost decayed. These letters patent were sent by the duke to Thomas Sotherton, then mayor, to be put in force ; but the commons disapproving the scheme, would not suffer the seal of the city to be put to the admission of any stranger ; upon which the court agreed to fix the seal of mayoralty, to the admissions of the thirty masters; the form of which was as follows : “ Thomas Sotherton, mayor
 ‘ of the city of Norwich, with the advice of his
 ‘ brethren the aldermen, according to the queen’s
 ‘ majesty’s letters patent, &c. do licence John
 ‘ Powell’s, estraunger, to take to farm any house,
 ‘ messuage, or rent within the city aforesaid, there
 ‘ to inhabit and dwell with his household and family,
 ‘ to use, exercise, make, and work as well all such
 ‘ commodities, as in the said letters patent be con-
 ‘ tained, as others, not heretofore made or wrought,
 ‘ within the said city ; during the time of his good
 ‘ behaviour and obedience to such constitutions and
 ‘ orders, as be now made, and hereafter shall be
 ‘ made, for the better governance of the said city ;
 ‘ in witness whereof, &c.’

In consequence hereof, twenty four masters were admitted on the part of the Dutch, and six on that of
 the

the Walloons; and divers rules and ordinances drawn up for their good government. On a return made November 19, 1571, it was found that there were in the city eight hundred, and sixty eight men of the Dutch nation; two hundred, and three Walloons; one thousand, one hundred, and seventy three women of both nations; one thousand, six hundred, and eighty one children, under fourteen years of age; in all three thousand, nine hundred, and twenty five.

In 1575, the Dutch elders presented in court a new work called bombazines, praying to have the sear and seal of them to their use, exclusive of the Walloons, who insisted that all white works belonged to them; but the Dutch, as the first inventors, had their petition granted to them.

In 1582, on a second return made of the strangers settled here, they were found to be eleven hundred, and twenty eight men; thirteen hundred, and fifty eight women; eight hundred, and fifteen children strangers born; thirteen hundred, and seventy eight children English born; in all four thousand, six hundred, and seventy nine.

In 1567, the seal of the city having on it a representation of the Trinity was disused, and a new one engraved with the city arms. The following year, the two towers at the west end of the Guildhall, one of which was used as a treasury, and the other as a dungeon to the gaol, fell down through decay, and the end was rebuilt as it now remains. About this time post horses were first established here, by agreement between the duke of Norfolk and the

mayor, and three post masters appointed; to each of whom was lent out of the city treasury, three pounds, thirteen shillings and four pence without interest, and a stipend of four pounds per annum, paid by the sheriffs; half of which was levied on the inn-keepers and tiplers, and the other half on the inhabitants: no person was to take any post horses in the city, unless by warrant from the queen, the duke of Norfolk, the privy council, or the mayor; or to use any one horse above twelve or fourteen miles together; for which was to be paid two-pence each mile outward, and six-pence to the guide for going, and bringing back the horses; the said horses not to carry a cloak-bag of more than ten pounds weight. The hire of the hackney horses was also fixed at one shilling for the first day, and 8d. each day after, till their redelivery.

In 1570, the art of printing was introduced here, by Anthony Solen, one of the strangers; for which he was presented with his freedom. Ten days before Christmas, in the same year, a heavy snow began to fall, which continued through the holidays, and increased to such a depth, as had not been known in the memory of man: it was succeeded by a very severe frost, which did not break up till the following Candlemas; when, on the thaw, the waters rose so exceedingly, that on Saturday the 5th of Feb. that part of the city, on the north side of the river, was totally overflown: they continued rising 'till the Wednesday following, and in their course

course bore down several stone walls and buildings. This flood rose considerably higher than that on St. Leonard's day; and from the season in which it happened, was called Candlemas flood.

In 1571, the poor being greatly oppressed, for want of regular relief, John Aldrich then mayor, and Thomas Greene his successor, made many excellent orders and rules for their maintenance, and much benefited the city, by erecting a Bridewell at the Norman spittal.

On the 2d of June, 1572, the duke of Norfolk was beheaded on Tower hill, justly lamented by the inhabitants of this city, who in him lost a stedfast friend, and noble benefactor.

In 1573, died John Caius, Dr. in physic, whose true name was Keye, a native of this city, being born here in 1510, the 2d of Hen. VIII. He received his school education at Norwich, and was admitted whilst very young a student of Gonville hall in Cambridge, where he afterwards became fellow, and took his doctor's degree. Passing thence into Italy, he entered himself a member of the university of Padua, then famous for the study of physick, under John Baptist Montanus of Verona, the greatest physician of that age: at his return he settled at Norwich and practised physick there untill 1551, the year in which the sweating sickness broke out; which disease he treated with such uncommon success, as gained him the highest reputation, and induced king Edward the sixth to promote him to the honour of being his physician.

In

In 1556, he published his history of the sweating sickness in latin, for the benefit of foreigners.

In 1557, being then physician to queen Mary, who professed the greatest regard for him, he, with the master and fellows of Gonvile hall, petitioned the king and queen, and obtained a charter of foundation, and confirmation of all their rights, estates, and privileges which they had formerly enjoyed; by which Caius became a founder equally with Gonvile and Bateman, and had full power granted him make rules and statutes, provided that they were not repugnant to those of Bateman, or injurious to the queen's prerogative, or that of her successors. The same charter also impowered him to settle seventy ty pounds per annum as a further increase of the college revenue; and to found two new fellowships and twelve scholarships, or more, if he thought proper: the college being to be incorporated by the name of 'The master and fellows of Gonvile and Caius college, founded in the honour of the annunciation of the blessed virgin Mary.' The year following on the feast of the annunciation, Dr. Caius re-dedicated, and consecrated the college, to the honour of the annunciation, to which it was formerly dedicated by Gonvile and Bateman; and endowed it with the manor of Croxley in Hertfordshire, then of the yearly value of twenty three pounds, one shilling, and seven pence halfpenny, formerly parcel of the abbey of St. Alban's; the manor of Runcion in Norfolk, formerly belonging to the monastery of St. Edmund's Bury in Suffolk, then

then twenty two pounds, five shillings per annum; together with the patronages of Holme, Wallington, and the manor of Burnham in Norfolk, formerly belonging to the monastery at Wymondham, then six pounds per annum: all these he purchased of king Philip and queen Mary (they being vested in the crown on the dissolution of the monasteries) for one thousand and thirty pounds, twelve shillings, and six pence: but it appearing that the advowsons of Runcton, Holme, and Wallington had been before conveyed to Sir Edward Fienes, Lord Clinton and Saye, high admiral of England, and Hen. Herdson of London, by Edward VI. the college lost them. Besides all this, he built the south court, called Caius court, at the expence of one thousand, eight hundred, and thirty four pounds and upwards. On the 24th of January, 1559, he was chosen warden, or master, which office he resigned in the year 1573, to Dr. Thomas Legge of Norwich; and lived afterwards in his chambers over the gate of wisdom and virtue, as fellow commoner: after having compiled a body of statutes for the government of his college, he died at London of a languishing disease, and was buried on the north side of his college chappel, under the altar of the virgin Mary, in a sepulchre which he had given orders for, before his death. On his tomb is this inscription

FUI CAIUS
VIVIT POST FUNERA VIRTUS
ÆTATIS SUÆ OBIT XXIX JULII
LXIII, ANNO DNI 1573.

That

That is,

I was CAIUS:

VIRTUE SURVIVES US AFTER DEATH.

DIED JULY 23, 1573. AGED 63 YEARS.

He ordered his executors to purchase lands to the value of one hundred pounds per annum, and to settle them on his college; and also appropriated his fellowships and scholarships, to his own countrymen, of the diocese and city of Norwich.

In 1573, the citizens collected by way of benevolence, eighty seven pounds, twelve shillings, and seven pence, toward the repairing of Yarmouth haven.

In 1574, it appeared, by the queen's musters, that Norfolk had six thousand, one hundred, and fifty able men on the muster roll, of which three thousand, six hundred, and thirty two were armed; and the city of Norwich two thousand, one hundred, and twenty able men, of which four hundred were armed.

In 1575, the city procured sundry writs, directed to the mayors of London, Lynn, and many other places, certifying them, that the citizens of Norwich were free from all toll, pontage, &c. throughout all England.

In this year, on the seventeenth of May, died Matthew Parker, archbishop of Canterbury, son of William Parker citizen of Norwich, and Alice Monings his wife. This great man was born in the parish of St. Saviour, in this city, August 6, 1504, and brought up at the grammar school here. September 1, 1520, he was admitted of Corpus Christi or Bene't college in Cambridge, and on the fourth

fourth of March following elected bible clerk, and took his doctor's degree in divinity in 1538, being then fellow. On June 24, 1547, he married Margaret daughter of Robert Harlestone of Mattishall, gentleman, who was born June 23, 1519: he became so remarkable a preacher, that queen Anne Boleyn sent for him to court, and made him her chaplain, and soon after procured him the deanry of the college of Stoke by Clare. In 1541, he was prebend of the second stall in the church of Ely; in 1544, chosen warden or master of Bene't college; in 1545, elected vice chancellor of the university, and a second time in 1548; presented by the college to the rectory of Landbeach near Cambridge; and made chaplain to king Edward the sixth, and by him preferred in 1552 to the deanry of Lincoln and prebend of Coldingham in that church: on queen Mary's accession to the crown he lost all his spiritualities on account of his being married, and retired during her reign.

Queen Elizabeth on her coming to the throne nominated Dr. Parker to the see of Canterbury; and he was consecrated on the seventeenth of December, 1559, in the chapel at Lambeth. This see he filled with the greatest honour 'till his death, being a prelate eminently religious, learned, modest and courteous: he was extremely assiduous in his search after ancient manuscripts; of which he made the most valuable collection now remaining in this kingdom, and presented to the college, where he had received his education. His death happened

May 17, 1575, and his remains were deposited in the chapel at Lambeth, where they rested in peace 'till the time of the usurpation; when the palace there being converted into lay habitations, one Hardyng, who occupied the chapel, brutally dug up the archbishop's body, fold the leaden coffin, and threw the corps into an outhouse, where he kept poultry: this being discovered after the restauration, the body was taken up, and buried again in the chapel just above the litany desk, near the steps ascending to the altar. This most reverend father, with the assistance of his brethren the bishops, and of other doctors, examined thoroughly the english translation of the holy bible, and caused a new edition of it to be printed. The famous palace of his see at Canterbury, having suffered much by fire, as well as neglect, he fully repaired it at the expence of fourteen hundred pounds. He founded a grammar school at Rachdale in Lancashire in 1564, and endowed it with fifteen pounds per annum for the master's salary, and forty shillings for that of the usher, to teach gratis, the youth born in that parish. To the society of Corpus Christi or Bene't college in Cambridge, he added four fellowships; two from the increased rents, and two of his own foundation, one bible clerk, and eight scholarships: five of the scholars to be elected from Norwich, one from Canterbury, one from Wymondham, and one from Aylesham: and besides gave to the master, fellows, and scholars of the said college, the advowson of St. Mary Abchurch, in London, and procured them a charter of mortmain to purchase
one

one hundred pounds per annum: he presented them also with three hundred, and nine ounces of silver plate doubly gilt; the sum of one hundred pounds, the interest whereof he appropriated to the finding a fire in the common hall, from All Saints to Candlemas; and five hundred pounds to the increasing the commons of the fellows and scholars; and surrendered to them a lease with the improvement of fourteen pounds, eight shillings, yearly, for seventeen years: he granted to the register his whole commons, with one chamber, in that part of the college inhabited by the Norwich scholars, and annexed to his office that of senior bible clerk. To this city he presented one basin and ewer, of silver, doubly gilt, weighing one hundred and seventy five ounces, to be used at the mayor's table; and to be delivered from mayor to mayor by indenture for ever; they are adorned with his arms and name in a cypher: on the basin is the following inscription; Matthæus Parker, Norwicensis Archiepiscopus Cantuar. dedit eidem civitati 1. Jan. An: Dni: 1569. et anno consecrationis suæ 11. Ætatis vero suæ, 66.*

He founded a physic scholarship in Gonville and Caius college, to which society he gave a standing cup and pot of silver, doubly gilt; and several valuable books to their library. He founded also a scholarship in Trinity hall, for a student in civil law, which

H h 2 scholar

* Matthew Parker of the city Jan. 1. 1569, in the 11th year of Norwich, archbishop of Can- of his consecration, and 66th terbury gave this to the said city, of his age.

scholar that society may elect out of Bene't college, on any vacancy; otherwise, to certify to the mayor and aldermen of Norwich, such vacancy, who are to fill it up in a month's time, with a scholar out of the school there. He gave them also a standing cup and pot of silver, gilt, weighing fifty three ounces, besides a nest of silver goblets gilt, and several valuable manuscripts. He presented fifty ancient manuscripts, and fifty printed books to the university library, and repaired the regent walk, and the walls by the public schools: he augmented the parsonage, repaired, pewed and beautified the chancel of Beakisbourn in Kent, and gave one hundred pounds to set the poor of Canterbury to work; thirty pounds to Lambeth, and thirty pounds to Croydon, for the same purposes.

In 1566, the archbishop offered the city two hundred pounds, if they would assure to the master and fellows of Bene't college in Cambridge, an annuity of ten pounds, for which that college was forever to receive at the nomination of the mayor and major part of the aldermen of Norwich, for the time being; three scholars 'out of the schools, at or in the said city of Norwiche, or Aylesham in Norfolk,' each of them to receive of the college two pounds, thirteen shillings, and fourpence yearly; their tuition, chamber rent, washing, barber, &c. freely, without any thing being paid therefore: on the twenty fourth of June the indentures for that purpose were sealed between the city and college, in which the city settled an annuity of ten pounds

pounds per annum, issuing out of the manor and farms of Hethel and Carleton in Norfolk, to be paid half yearly, the college to pay eight pounds thereof, yearly, for the exhibitions of the scholars aforesaid. ' The mayor and the more part of his
' brethren the aldermen shall appoint for scholars,
' such as be, or shall be born within the city, being
' betwixt the age of fourteen and twenty years, well
' instructed in the grammar; able to write and sing,
' and if it may be able to make a verse, and such as
' shall be of honest parents, and brought up in the
' fear of God, and disposed to enter by Gods grace
' into the ministry, in that vocation to serve God and
' his church : ' which scholars, after three years continuance, if found to dislike the study of divinity, are to be removed, upon notice given to the mayor and aldermen, by the master and fellows : in which case they are to nominate others in their stead : otherwise to enjoy their exhibitions six years from their admission. If the mayor, &c. send any scholar not fit to be admitted, the college shall certify their refusal of him, but must have him first examined by the proctors, who must also declare his unfitness; and no scholarship shall be longer vacant than six weeks : the fellows to have two weeks to certify, and the city a month to elect : the profits in the vacancies to go to the naperye of the college common table : and no scholar is to absent himself more than one month in a year, and that with the permission of the master and president. The remaining forty shillings to be paid to such
preacher

preacher or preachers as shall be yearly nominated by the college ' to preach and declare one sermon ' at the town of Thetford, and therefore to have ' yearly six shillings and eight pence one other sermon at Wymondham in the county of Norfolk, and ' therefore yearly to have six shillings and eight pence; ' one other sermon within the green yarde in the ' city of Norwich, and therefore yearly to have six ' shillings and eight pence; and one other sermon in ' the parish church of St. Clement by Fybridge ' in Norwiche aforesaid, and therefore yearly to ' have ten shillings;' the remaining ten shillings to be distributed as follows, to the mayor one shilling, to the two sheriffs one shilling and four pence, to the parson or curate, eight pence, to the town clerk sixpence, to the sword bearer sixpence, to the four sergeants at mace sixteen pence, and to the clerk of the parish of St. Clement four-pence, provided they be present at the sermon preached at St. Clement's church. To the clerk of that parish yearly for overseeing the tomb of William Parker, and Alice his wife (his father and mother) twelve pence, to the prisoners in the city gaol, twenty pence, to the poor of St. Clement's twenty pence; and the portions of all such persons above mentioned, as shall absent themselves from the sermon at St. Clement's, to be equally divided between the said poor, and the prisoners in the gaol.

In 1570, he settled about ten acres of land in Eastfield in Mattishall, on the inhabitants there as feoffees, chargeable with an annuity of fifty shillings, payable

payable on the first day of May, forever, to the vicar, church-wardens, and overseers, who immediately after the sermon preached there on the Tuesday in rogation week, shall pay to the preacher six shillings and eight pence; to thirty of the poorest people in that parish, one shilling; to one Thomas Sparrowe, and to the poorest of his name and kindred after him, five shillings; and to the vicar, curate, or parish clerk, whichever of them shall undertake the teaching of children, six shillings and eight pence.

By indenture bearing date, August 6. 1568, the city, for the sum of three hundred and twenty pounds, advanced by the archbishop, granted to the college an annuity of eighteen pounds per annum, for the founding of two Norwich fellowships, and two additional Norwich scholarships: each of the said fellows to receive a stipend of six pounds a year, and to be excluded from any share of such dividends as anciently belonged to the master and eight fellows of the first foundation; but as to any future increase, or augmentation, of the society's revenues, they were to be equally benefitted with the rest of the members*: the other six pounds of the annuity was allotted for the stipend of the two new scholarships, the scholars to be nominated by the mayor, and the major part of the aldermen of Norwich, in like manner as the three Norwich scholars are; and if there should be none fit to be nominated

* These fellowships are ten- or prebend, under the value of
able with any pension, canonry 10l. a year in the king's books.

minated from the said city, then to be chosen from the grammar school at Wymondham; and in case of failure there, then from that at Aylesham; provided such so named be born in the city, or in either of the towns afore said: the two Norwich fellows always to be elected from such scholars. The college further bound themselves ' evermore to electe, over
' and above the two forenamed Norwich fellows (if
' it maie be) foure of their nombre of fellowes out
' of the countie of Norfolk, born in any citie or
' town of the said shire, and in default of hable
' scholars to be found within the said college, to
' elect them from tyme to tyme out of anie other
' college in the said universitee, &c.' He founded exhibitions also for three scholars, to be called Canterbury scholars; the first to be sent from Canterbury school, the second from Aylesham in Norfolk, and the third from Wymondham in the same county; each scholar to be a native of the town from which he is sent.

At the sessions held in the guild hall, 1578, Matthew Hamond of Hetherfet, wheelwright, was convicted of speaking seditious and slanderous words against the queen's majesty, and condemned either to pay one hundred pounds to the queen, or to be set on the pillory in the market place, and to have both his ears cut off; which sentence was accordingly executed upon him on the thirteenth of May; after which he was recommitted to prison, having been before condemned by the bishop of Norwich, for denying Christ Jesus to be the son of God,
and

and affirming, that by his death and passion no one can be saved, and was burnt on the twentieth of May in the castle ditch.

On the eighteenth day of September, 1583, John Lewes was burnt here for blasphemy; and in 1587, Peter Cole of Ipswich, tanner; and on the fourteenth of January, 1588, Francis Knight, alias Ket, of Wymondham, A. M. suffered here for the same offence.

On Saturday the sixteenth of August, 1578, queen Elizabeth arrived at Braken-Ash, from whence after dinner, she proceeded on her intended visit to this city, and was met at Hertford bridges by the mayor and corporation, attended by the principal inhabitants most sumptuously apparelled. Here the mayor, after having addressed her majesty in an handsome speech, presented her with the city sword, accompanied with a covered cup of silver gilt, containing one hundred pounds in gold. The procession then set forward, the mayor carrying a mace or sceptre, which he bore before the queen to the bishop's palace, where she lodged. During her stay here, which continued 'till the friday following, the time was passed in feasting and pageantries, many of them expressive of the trade and manufactures of the city. At her departure, her majesty knighted Robert Wood, esquire, then mayor; at the same time graciously declaring, that she had laid up in her breast such good will, as that she would never forget Norwich; and thanking him the mayor, aldermen

dermen &c. for the dutiful treatment she herself had met with, and the kind regard shewn to every one of her train.

This time of joy and festivity was succeeded by a most severe affliction; for, as the Norwich roll says, 'The traines of her majesty's carriage being many of them infected, leste the plague behind them, which afterward so increased and contynued, as it raged above a yer and three quarters after,' during which time, two thousand, three hundred, and thirty five natives, and two thousand, four hundred, and eighty two 'alyan strangers' died of it from August the twentieth, 1578, to February the nineteenth, 1579: amongst the former were ten aldermen. During the infection, it was ordered, that every person coming from an infected house, shou'd carry in his hand a small white wand, two feet in length, and that no such person shou'd appear at any court, or publick place, or be present at any sermon; and that the following inscription should be put over the door of every infected house 'Lord have mercy on us,' and there remain untill the house had been clear of the infection for one month at least; and that no person who had been afflicted with a plague sore, shou'd appear abroad untill it had been entirely healed for the space of twenty days.

This year John Elwyn of Heigham, in the liberties of the city, but without the walls, being elected sheriff, was requested to take a house within the city and dwell there during his continuing in that office; and on his refusing so to do, it was unanimously

mously resolved, that if any person hereafter chosen sheriff, shall refuse to reside within the city, he shall forfeit one hundred marks: whereupon the said sheriff in court declared that he would pay the above fine, if he did not comply with the order, in a week's time.

In 1580, on the Wednesday in Easter week, towards the evening, was felt a shock of an earthquake; which, Stow says, was very violent in Kent, and many other places.

In 1582, the water was conveyed from the New-Mills to the cross in the market, and the dial set up on the north side of St. Peter's steeple, towards the expense of which the court contributed.

In 1583, an order of court was issued, directing, that all roofs hereafter raised should be covered with tile, slate or lead, and that on repairing any old roof, no more than three couple of new spars should be thatched together. This year the plague broke out again, and eight or nine hundred persons died of it, the principal part of which were strangers. George Shipdham was executed in the town close, for the murder of his wife and children, and hung on a gibbet there; but in 1584, Henry Shipdham, his brother, obtained a licence to take him down.

In 1588, upon the news of the Spanish invasion, the city gave one hundred pounds towards fortifying the town of Yarmouth; and on the 15th of August, sent three hundred men for its defence. In the same year the plague broke out here again, but did not rage violently.

In 1591, White-friars bridge, and (as some accounts say) Cossany bridge were built of freestone, being of wood before: and now the city was again visited with the plague, which carried off six hundred, seventy two persons, in less than four months time. At a court held the ninth of June, it was enacted, that henceforth the new elected mayor should be always chosen on May-day, and sworn into his office on the Tuesday before Midsummer-day; except in the case of Midsummer-day falling on the Wednesday, then to be sworn on the Tuesday se'nnight before that day. The city having realized as much as their licence of mortmain enabled them to do, by the purchase they had lately made of Shropham farm, appropriation, and advowson, it was resolved to apply for another licence to amortize two hundred pounds per annum; which passed the great seal in 1594.

In 1593, there happened so great a drought, that many cattle perished for want of water; but in the year following, from the twenty first of June, to the end of July, it scarcely ceased raining day or night. The charges of the mayoralty having of late much increased, the city added thirty three pounds, six shillings, and eight pence, to their former allowance of sixty six pounds, thirteen shillings and fourpence, so that the whole now was one hundred pounds per annum.

In 1595, provisions were so scarce, that wheat sold at twenty shillings a comb, rye at fifteen shillings, Barley at ten shillings, oatmeal at twenty shillings, beef at three shillings a stone; the best sheep at four-
teen

teen shillings a piece, lambs at five shillings, calves at twenty shillings, fat fowls and capons at three shillings and four-pence, pigeons at three-pence, rabbits at eight-pence, and cheefe at four-pence a pound; prices at those times very extravagant.

In 1596, the act passed for erecting hospitals and work-houses for the poor.

In 1597, it was agreed, that no one should serve the office of mayor a second time, unless at the distance of nine years, from his first serving it.

In 1599, the city sent six men well armed, for her majesty's service in Ireland, with five pounds a man for their pay; viz. two pikemen, two muskets, and two calivers or carbines.

In 1601, on Wednesday the 29th of April, about five o'clock in the afternoon, there fell a sudden storm of hail and rain, attended with violent thunder and lightning: whereby the upper part of the cathedral spire, which had been lately repaired, was beaten down; it fell on the north roof of the church, which it brake through, doing considerable damage thereto, as well as to the walls of the choir: the spire was split on the south east side from top to bottom, and more than twenty holes made therein large enough for a man to creep through; no other part of the city received any damage by this violent tempest. And on Christmas day at noon another shock of an earthquake was felt here.

In 1602, three hundred men were raised for the queen's service, to be sent to Ostend, of which number the city supplied sixteen, the cathedral precinct two, and the town of Lynn nine; and for every
tenth

tenth granted to the queen, the city raised eighty pounds, six shillings, and eleven pence: in the same year the plague raged with uncommon fury, there dying thereof in London, thirty thousand, five hundred, and seventy eight, and in Norwich three thousand, and seventy six persons; this visitation was attended with so great a scarcity, that wheat sold for ten, rye for six, and barley for five shillings a bushel.

King James the first on his accession to the crown, granted to the mayor, sheriffs, and commons of the city, a general pardon for all past offences whatsoever, to the twentieth day of March, in the fortieth year of Elizabeth, 1598.

In 1605, a petition was presented to parliament, by the city ministers, and a bill drawn thereupon, for settling upon them, two shillings in the pound, according to the rent paid for every house, shop, &c. but this was put a stop to, on the ministers being assured, that proper methods should be taken by the magistrates to assess every parish for the increase of their stipends. Upon which an order of council was directed to the mayor of Norwich, for the time being, or to any three or more of the justices of peace of that city, whereof the mayor to be always one; requiring them ‘to take pains forthwith
 ‘to enter into the due consideration of the estates
 ‘and abilities of all the inhabitants of the said
 ‘parishes, and from time to time, to set down a proportionable tax on every of them, such as shall be
 ‘competent for the maintenance of the said ministers respectively, to be yearly paid them according to their difference in gifts, sufficiency, and
 ‘diligence

‘diligence in their function, as in your good discretions shall be meet and convenient.’ This method was pursued for some time, ’till Matthew Wren, bishop of Norwich, in 1638, procured letters patent under the great seal, declaring, ‘That if any person, within the said city of Norwich, should refuse to pay according to the rate of two shillings in the pound, in lieu of the tithes of houses, unto the minister of any parish, within the said city, that the same should be heard in the court of chancery, or in the consistory of the bishop of Norwich; and that in such case, no prohibition should be granted against the said bishop of Norwich, his chancellors, or commissioners, in the said court of consistory.’ These, by reason of the succeeding troubles, were never carried into execution.

In 1608, sir John Pettus, then mayor, built the fish stalls by Fybridge, and the year following, the house over the spring without Bishop’s gate.

About this time, incredible damages were done in many parts of England, and particularly in this county by inundations, so as to occasion the passing of an act for the recovery of many thousand acres of marsh and other lands, lately overflowed, &c. in the county of Norfolk; and for preventing the like misfortune hereafter. The act sets forth, that part of the sea shore between Yarmouth and Happisburgh, lying low, and being sand only, was lately broken down, and washed away by the violence of the tides; so that the sea broke in

in at every tide, and with every sea wind came up the Norwich river, into the very body and heart of the county of Norfolk; drowning much hard grounds, and many thousand acres of marsh: and by means of the salt water, the fisheries between Yarmouth and Norwich, as well in rivers as broads, were much damaged: to remedy which, there were eighteen commissioners appointed, to see to the immediate stopping of the breaches*.

In the summer of 1609, the city was visited by the plague, tho' but few died of it. The mayor and aldermen received a letter from the privy council, dated January eighth, in this year, earnestly recommending to them, to put in execution his majesty's orders of the preceeding year, for the keeping up the ancient strictness and severity of lent.

The chancellor having refused to have the sermon preached in the green yard as usual on easter day, being the king's coronation, the mayor and aldermen sat there whilst the sermon was preaching in the church, and as soon as it was finished, departed home. On the eighteenth day of June, being guild day, a sumptuous pageant was prepared at the new mayor's gate on Tombland, and fire works played off in the evening as was customary; some of which bursting, so extremely frightened the people, that thro' their hurrying away in crowds for fear of being hurt, thirty three persons were trodden down and pressed to death: on which account, at a court held on the twenty second day of March, it was

or-

* The Bishop, eleven Norfolk, and six Suffolk Justices

ordered, that no fire works should be played off on any feast or guild day, on the penalty of twenty pounds, to be levied by distress, on the goods of every person transgressing therein.

In 1615, so great were the inundations in Norfolk, that the sea came twelve miles into land; and on St. Andrew's day happened a remarkable flood, which did considerable damage to the churches and houses here, but no lives were lost: it reached the height of the Candlemas flood within two inches. The same year Thomas Tunstal, priest, was drawn, hanged and quartered, at the gallows without Magdalen gate; his head was placed over St. Benedict's gate, and his quarters over four other gates of the city: he confessed himself a Benedictine friar by vow, but not by act.

At the assizes held August, 1617, a dispute arose between sir Henry Montague, Knight, lord chief justice of the king's bench, and John Mingay Esq; then mayor, concerning precedence, occasioned by the indiscretion of sir Augustine Palgrave, knight, sheriff of Norfolk; who had imprudently informed the chief justice, that it was his right to sit in the chair at the preaching place in the green yard, with the mayor on his left hand: this the mayor resolutely opposed, asserting his right to the chair; and the chief justice as resolutely insisted upon, being misled by the untrue information of the sheriff.—But this matter was afterwards set right, and the sheriff obliged to acknowledge his error; after having been severely reprimanded by the judge for misguiding him. On the next day a contest of the same kind happened

between the high sheriff and the sheriffs of Norwich; when, to prevent any disputes of the like nature from happening in future, it was determined, that the high sheriff only shall attend the judges when they are upon the county business; and the sheriffs of Norwich only when they are doing that of the city.

In 1619, the king, by the advice of his privy council, commanded by his letters patent directed to the mayor, &c. that, for the time to come, in order to prevent disputes in their elections, the senior alderman should always be chosen mayor, as the custom of the city of London was; and agreeable to the interpretation given of their charters by sir Henry Montague and sir John Dodridge, justices of assize for the said city and county: notwithstanding this, on the May-day following, this method of electing was opposed by Richard Wyth, Thomas Claxton, John Ling citizens, and alderman Rosse, for which they were bound, in five hundred pounds each, to appear before the privy council; 'for being disturbers of orders, and contemners of the king's directions.' In 1620 Michael Parker, alderman, Thomas Seaman, and Roger Sedgewick, were bound over for the same offence; and in 1621, the matter was agreed in the following manner, at an assembly held the 14th of August; at which were present, sir Henry Montague, chief justice of the king's bench, sir John Dodridge, and sir Robert Houghton, knights, justices of the common pleas; viz. that the citizens shall for ever nominate the two senior aldermen, that have been sheriffs, but who have not served the office of mayor, or been
dis-

dispensed with bearing that office at some assembly, held before the feast of St. Matthias preceeding the election; and the mayor and aldermen shall choose the eldest in rank, for mayor for the ensuing year: and, that on the election of an alderman, the mayor and aldermen shall propose four proper persons, having served the office of sheriffs, or, if they choose it, the then sheriffs; and the citizens to elect one of the persons so proposed.

In 1620, the city granted the king a loan of three hundred and twenty six pounds, six shillings, and eight pence, for the defense of the palatinate. On the last day of March, 1625, Charles the first was proclaimed here; and on the thirteenth day of May following, Thomas, earl of Arundel and Surrey, earl marshal of England, was appointed lord lieutenant of the county of Norfolk, and of the city of Norwich and county of the same.

On the twelfth day of July, a commission was issued out directed to the mayor, &c. authorising them to levy a tax on all the inhabitants, to be applied towards scouring the ditches, and the removal of all nuisances in and about the city; the better to prevent the spreading of the plague, which had lately broke out at Yarmouth, and been communicated to the town, by the arrival of some infected persons from that place: these precautions not having the desired effect, the Black-tower on Butter-hills was fitted up for the reception of the poor, labouring under that dreadful calamity. In September there died about forty in a week; and

when it raged most violently, the number of burials amounted to ninety one, of whom, seventy three died of the plague. In May, 1626, it began to abate, and in the December following totally ceased: the number who died of it was one thousand, four hundred, and thirty one.

In 1626, Peter Aspinall, and Edward Cowell, were appointed by the court public letter carriers between Norwich and Cambridge, and had leave to wear the city arms as their servants.

Writs of quo warranto were brought against the mayor, &c. for refusing to furnish two ships of war demanded of them; who on trial, in 1629, obtained a verdict, having proved, that they neither used nor usurped any privileges but what their charters warranted. During this contest, the city raised a sum of money, and presented to the king by way of loan, as settled by the lord keeper, lord treasurer, comptroller and chancellor of the dutchy of Lancaster, who came hither for that purpose.

In 1627, an order arrived for the levying two hundred and fifty foot soldiers in the city of Norwich, and county of Norfolk, of which number the citizens were ordered to furnish twenty five; but they would raise no more than seventeen, that being their full proportion. The determination of the courts on the writs of quo warranto brought against the city, not being agreeable to the promoters of them, the following letter was sent to Alexander Anguish, esquire, mayor; John Thacker, and William Gostlin, sheriffs.

‘ After

‘ After our hearty commendations, we have
‘ thought fit to let you understand, that upon the
‘ delivery here at court of the herring pies, which
‘ we lately received from you, we find divers
‘ very just exceptions to be taken against the
‘ goodness of them; which we must require you
‘ to answer, and take such order, that the same
‘ may be amended for the future time, as you would
‘ avoid further trouble: the exceptions we take are
‘ these.

‘ First, you do not send them according to your
‘ tenure, of the first new herrings that are taken.

‘ Secondly, you do not cause them to be well ba-
‘ ked in good and strong pastye, as they ought to
‘ be, that they may endure the carriage the better.

‘ Thirdly, whereas you should, by your tenure,
‘ bake in these pasties six score herrings at the least,
‘ being the great hundreth which doth require
‘ five to be put into every pye at the least; we find
‘ but four herrings in divers of them.

‘ Fourthly, the number of pies which you sent at
‘ this time, we find to be fewer than have been sent
‘ heretofore, and divers of them also much broken.

‘ And lastly, we understand the bringer of them
‘ was constrained to make three several journeys to
‘ you, before he could have them, whereas it seemeth
‘ he is bound to come but once.

‘ To every of which our exceptions, we must
‘ pray your particular answer for our better satis-
faction

faction, that we may have no cause to question it farther; and so we bid you heartily farewell;

Your loving friends
Hampton court, John Savile.
Pembroke Rich. Manley.
4th of Oct. 1629.

Upon the receipt hereof, the city promised to be more careful in the matter for the future.

This rent of herring pies is the ancient fee-farm of the city, settled long before its incorporation, or the building of Yarmouth, being at that time a very considerable fishing town, and is still paid by the sheriffs: the manor of Carleton, is held by the tenure of carrying the pasties to court. In 1673, Thomas lord Richardson, baron of Crumond, lord of the said manor, acknowledged the having received of the sheriffs of Norwich, by Rich. Edeh his tenant, one hundred herrings, by the great hundred, viz. of the first new herrings that came to the city, in twenty four pies or pasties, well seasoned with the following spices, viz. half a pound of ginger, half a pound of pepper, a quarter of a pound of cinnamon, one ounce of cloves, one ounce of long pepper, half an ounce of grains of paradise, and half an ounce of galangals. These pies are to be carried and placed upon the king's table, in whatever part of England he happens to be: and the persons carrying them are entitled to an allowance of six white loves, six dishes of meat out of the king's kitchen, one flaggon of wine, one flaggon of beer, one truss of hay, one bushel of oats, one pricket of wax-candle, and six tallow-candles

candles: they are now presented by the sheriffs of Norwich, the corporation being lords of the manor of Carleton.

In 1630, on the breaking out of the plague, the gate called Brazen-door, was appointed as a dwelling for the persons employed in burying those who died of it, and a prison for such infected poor as would not properly confine themselves; six houses were also erected on Butter-hills, near the great Black tower, for pest houses, and an acre of ground inclosed about them with high boards: these precautions had the desired effect, so that in July following, the city being intirely clear of the distemper, the pest houses were ordered to be taken down. In this and the succeeding year, corn was so prodigiously scarce, that wheat sold from thirty to forty shillings a comb; upon which an order was issued, that no corn should pass the boom or chain without a licence from the justices; that no malster should make any malt, and that all barley should be sold in open market; that the bakers should make only three sorts of bread, white, wheaten, and household, but no manchet or spice bread &c. great care was also taken to prevent the making of starch; and every person was obliged to declare what quantity of corn he had in his possession. The treasurer of the city granary was directed, to buy what corn he could, and to deliver weekly, to the aldermen of the severall wards a proportional quantity of the same, mixed in the following manner; two parts barley, one part wheat, and one part rye, which was to be sold to the poor at eighteen shillings a comb.

In

In 1631, information being received that the plague had broke out in London, and that even five persons had died of it in this city, such wise precautions were immediately taken as put an effectual stop to the spreading of the contagion; not more than twenty or thirty persons dying of it.

In 1634, the contest between the church and city was left to reference, each party paying their own charges; the lord keeper (sir Thomas Coventry) and Mr. justice Hutton being the arbitrators: the decree bears date July 2, by which all Tomblond, Spytelond, Raton-rowe, and Holmestreet, together with the houses, soil, and ground there, and all liberties whatever, were confirmed to the city: and the liberty of the dean and chapter, determined to extend to the outward wall of their precinct, and no further: the dean was thereby excluded from holding any fair, lete or court, and from exercising any power of justiceship out of the precinct; and the whole site within the walls of the precinct, adjudged to be in the county of Norwich, but under the jurisdiction of the church: and whereas the city claimed the manor of Norman's, under the title of Queen Elizabeth, by virtue of a lease to her, made by the dean and chapter in the twenty first year of her reign; and also the house called Norman's Spitel or Hospital by virtue of a lease made to them by the dean and chapter, in the seventh year of her reign for five hundred years; it was now agreed, that the city should resign up the manor, and the church of St. Paul to the dean and chapter, and retain for

for the remainder of the term of five hundred years, the site of Norman's hospital as aforesaid. This year the winter assizes were held at Norwich, which being a great loss to the inhabitants of Thetford, the city presented them with fifteen pounds as a recompence therefore: about this time John Burridge gentleman was committed to prison for refusing payment of five pounds, assessed on him, as his proportion of ship money.

On the twenty third of March following, a letter, signed by the king, was directed to the mayor, sheriffs and aldermen, requiring their constant attendance, at the sermon preached every Sunday morning, either in the cathedral, or green yard; and that they would be there at the beginning of service, after the manner observed in the city of London; and that none absent himself, unless allowed so to do by the bishop: upon which at a court held on the twenty fifth day of July, 1636, it was ordered, that the mayor and court should constantly meet at the free school, and from thence proceed to church, agreeably to his majesty's instructions. This year the plague broke out again in St. Augustine's parish, but never arrived to any considerable height: and the pinnacle of the cathedral which had been much damaged by fire, was now completely repaired.

In 1637, Mr Thomas Atkyn, alderman of Norwich, was elected sheriff of London; whereupon the city petitioned the lords of the council, but could get no redress: Mr. Atkyn then requested leave to resign his gown, which was granted him.

In 1640, a fine of five pounds was paid by Richard Bough, for covering a house with reed, contrary to an act of assembly; and another of ten pounds, by William Foster, for erecting a malt house in the city.

In 1641, the commons asserted their right of choosing the mayor, the aldermen having for some years past succeeded to that office by seniority, and elected alderman Thomas Carver.

In 1642, July the twelfth, the parliament voted and declared the necessity of taking up arms: and on the twenty ninth day of the same month, captain Moses Trefwell was apprehended and delivered up to the parliament, for endeavouring to enlist men into the king's service, after having been forbid so to do by the corporation. The city imagining that this act would be deemed a declaration against their sovereign, ordered a double watch to be set in every ward; and a provision of all military stores to be made: when they received a letter from the parliament, thanking them for their great services, in apprehending and sending up captain Trefwell; and exhorting them to raise the militia, and to prevent any one from levying troops within their jurisdiction, without consent of parliament. Soon after, the king issued two proclamations, requiring his subjects assistance against the rebels, but no regard was paid to either of them here. So far from it, the magistrates ordered a general muster of the trained bands and volunteers, and put the city into the best state of defence they were able, fearing an attack from those gentlemen of Norfolk and Suffolk, who had declared
for

for the king. As a farther proof of their zeal, in the month of February following, they sent fifty dragoons for colonel Cromwell's regiment, which composed part of the troops under lord Grey of Wark, raised for the preservation of the peace in the associated counties of Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, and Huntingdonshire. As soon as these were marched, they came to a resolution of raising a hundred more; and, to mount them, gave orders for seizing the horses of those citizens who favoured the king's cause, and whom they distinguished by the name of malignants. The mayor, on his refusal to confirm these orders, was arrested by lord Grey, and carried prisoner to Cambridge; after having been obliged to appoint a deputy, to act in his absence. Soldiers were also placed at the doors of every church, where divine service was performed, and the keys of the gates delivered into the hands of the military power. On the thirteenth day of March, the city raised fifty dragoons more; and soon after, Henry Lane, John Daniel, John Osborn, Richard Roffe, and Alexander Anguish, aldermen, were displaced, as favourers of the royal party. Coals were at this time at the enormous price of fifty shillings a chaldron, and soon became so very scarce, that the brewers were oblig'd to use furze, brakes, &c. and the householders to burn wood. On the twenty-sixth day of March, 1643, a hundred men were ordered to be raised and sent to Cambridge, to reinforce the associated army. The weekly contribution laid by parliament on the

county of Norfolk, was one thousand, two hundred, and fifty pounds, to be raised in the following proportions. In the county of Norfolk, one thousand, one hundred, and twenty nine pounds; City of Norwich, and liberty of the cathedral, fifty three pounds; Lynn, twenty seven pounds, eleven shillings, and ten pence; Yarmouth, thirty four pounds, sixteen shillings, and five pence; and Thetford, five pounds, eleven shillings, and nine pence. April the second, being Easter day, captain Sherwood marched to Lynn with one hundred volunteers, to secure that town from any sudden surprize from the king's forces. May the twentieth, an order was made that one of the sheriffs for the time being, should be of the committee for sequestering the estates of papists and delinquents. Alderman Thacker being elected mayor for the ensuing year, a letter was sent to lord Grey, to beg the enlargement of the then mayor, on account of the great damage his private affairs had sustained by his long imprisonment: upon which his lordship discharged him, time enough to be present at the transferring his office to the new-elect. June the sixth, a committee was appointed for assessing the fifth part of all revenues, and the twentieth part of estates. At a court held on the twelfth day of July, it was ordered 'that captain
' Livewell Sherwood, shall watch and guard the ci-
' ty to morrow the thirteenth instant, in regard, that,
' *The vow and covenant is then to be taken,* for
' the appeasing of any stir or tumults that may arise
' within the said city.' And that the gates should be
unstopped,

unstopped, upon the citizens promising to block them up again, upon notice given. August the twelfth, a meeting of the associated counties was appointed, on account of the danger with which the city was threatened on the approach of the enemy, and the castle ordered to be fortified. Lincolnshire was also admitted amongst the other associated counties, at the request of the earl of Manchester, who was besieging Lynn, which surrendered to him on the ninth day of September. The town was afterwards garrisoned by the parliament's forces, and fortified at the expense of the association. On the eighteenth day of November, four of the court were fined ten pounds each, for want of expedition in collecting the proposition money: and an order arrived from the earl of Manchester for the immediate assessing, and levying all and every such sums of money as ought to have been raised, by virtue of any former ordinance of parliament: this plundering commission, as it was very justly called, was immediately carried into execution, by force of arms. November the second, the excise office was opened at the house of alderman Parmenter*, for the payment of six pence a barrel on small beer, and two shillings on all beer above the value of six shillings a barrel.

On the eighteenth day of December, the mayor held the sessions, neither recorder nor steward being present, and delivered the charge to the grand jury.

On the twenty fourth of January, the day watch was discharged; but the night watch was still set, to

* Where Jarrit Dashwood, Esq; lately dwelt.

to serve on which, all the citizens, under the degree of aldermen, were liable; and the keys of each gate, were delivered to the constable of the ward, every night at nine o'clock. A committee was also appointed 'to view the churches for pictures and 'crucifixes,' in consequence of which, these new constituted reformers became guilty of all kinds of outrages and excesses. The following description of their proceedings, as given by bishop Hall, in his *Hard Measure*, will help us to form a just notion of the madness and enthusiasm of these times. 'It is 'tragical to relate the furious sacrilege committed 'under the authority of Lindsey, Tofts the sheriff, and Greenwood; what clattering of glasses, 'what beating down of walls, what tearing down of 'monuments, what pulling down of seats, and wrest- 'ing out of irons and brass from the windows, and 'graves; what defacing of arms, what demolish- 'ing of curious stone work, that had not any repre- 'sentation in the world, but the cost of the founder, 'and skill of the mason; what piping on the de- 'stroyed organ pipes: vestments, both copes, and 'surplices, together with the leaden crosses, which had 'been newly sawn down from over the green yard 'pulpit, and the singing books and service books 'were carried to the fire in the public market place; 'a lewd wretch walking before the train, in his cope 'trailing in the dirt, with a service book in his hand, 'imitating in an impious scorn the tune, and usurp- 'ing the words of the litany: the ordnance being 'discharged on the guild day, the cathedral was fil- 'led

‘led with musketeers drinking and tobaccoconing, as
‘freely as if it had turned ale house.’

By order of court on the ninth of March, seven popish pictures, taken from St. Swithin’s church, the angel and four Evangelists from St. Peter’s, Moses and Aaron, and the four Evangelists from the cathedral, together with some other superstitious paintings, were publickly burnt in the market.

It having been agreed between the English and Scottish commissioners that one hundred thousand pounds should be immediately advanced to the Scots, to enable them to put their army in march for England, an order was sent down here for the levying six thousand pounds, part of the said sum in the following proportions; in Norwich, two hundred and sixty five pounds; in Yarmouth, one hundred and seventy four pounds; in Lynn, one hundred and thirty two pounds; in Thetford, twenty seven pounds, eighteen shillings, and nine pence; and the remainder in the rest of the county of Norfolk.

In 1644, Wednesday the twenty seventh day of March, the day appointed for a solemn fast, being also the coronation day, the observation of it was settled as follows; that the whole day should be solemnly observed as a day of humiliation, as other fast days have been; that the aldermen should attend the mayor to St. Andrew’s church in the morning, and St. Peter’s in the afternoon; and that at night, after the duty of the day was finished, the cannons should be fired and the bells rung; and every one left at liberty to make bonfires at his pleasure.

sure. A project was set on foot in the month of August, and a petition thereupon proposed to be presented to parliament, for the uniting small parishes, and the providing a proper maintenance for an able ministry; but the promoters of it disagreeing as to the method in which it should be conducted, the whole affair was laid aside.

In 1645, the guild day was not observed with the usual state and parade, through fear of disturbances, on account of the king's taking the town of Huntington, and spreading the alarm into these parts.

The following letter dated at Westminster, the twenty fifth of September, was sent to the mayor, and aldermen.

Gentlemen,

‘ The parliament being desirous, above all things,
 ‘ to establish truth and righteousness in these kingdoms,
 ‘ towards which the settlement of a church government
 ‘ is very conducive, hath resolved to settle a presbi-
 ‘ terial government in this kingdom. For the bet-
 ‘ ter effecting whereof, you are required, with the
 ‘ advice of godly ministers and others, to con-
 ‘ sider how the county of the city of Norwich may
 ‘ be most conveniently divided into distinct classi-
 ‘ cal presbyteries; and what ministers, and others,
 ‘ are fit to be of each classis; and you are accord-
 ‘ ingly to make such divisions, and nominations of
 ‘ persons for such classical presbitery: which divi-
 ‘ sions and persons so named, for every division, you
 ‘ are to certify to this house with all expedition.

‘ I am your very loving friend,

‘ WILLIAM LENTHALL, speaker.’

On Christmas eve, the mayor issued orders to all the city clergy, commanding them neither to preach nor administer the sacrament in their respective churches on the day following; and to the inhabitants, charging them to open their shops as at other times.

In 1646, the plague made its appearance in Norwich and Dereham, but its effects were very inconsiderable. On the fourteenth day of November a violent flood laid great part of the city under water.

In 1647, beef was sold at five shillings a stone, and all other provisions were proportionably dear. On the eleventh of November, captain Blackwell, by order of parliament, stripped the lead off the Bishop's palace and chappel, and afterwards let them out to poor people for dwelling houses. On the first of December, the apprentices of Norwich subscribed and presented a petition to the mayor, praying that the observation of Christmas might be restored.

In 1648, a petition was presented to the mayor &c. subscribed by about 150 persons, begging a more speedy and effectual reformation; and complaining that their faithful ministers were discouraged and slighted, the ejected ministers countenanced and preferred, old ceremonies and the service book constantly used, and the directory for worship almost totally neglected: further praying, that the ordinances against superstition and idolatry might be put in strict execution; 'so, shall the crucifix on the

‘ cathedral gate bedefaced, and another in the rooffe of
‘ the cathedral neere the weft door in the infide, and
‘ one upon the free fchool, and the imadg of Chrifft,
‘ upon the parifh houfe of St. George at Tomland,
‘ be taken down, and many parifh churches more
‘ decently made for the congregation to meet in.’
The mayor having fhown but little regard to this
petition, upon complaint made againft him to the
parliament, a messenger difpatched to bring him
before that houfe, and the following order entered
in their journal; Die martis 18 April, 1648, poft
merid: ‘ Ordered by the commons affembled in
‘ parliament, that Mr. Chriftopher Baret alderman
‘ of the city of Norwich, be appointed to execute
‘ the place of mayor of the city of Norwich, in the
‘ place and ftead of Mr. John Utting, now mayor
‘ of the faid city, in the abfence and reftRAINT of
‘ the faid Mr. Utting.’ The common people ha-
ving a ftrong affection for the mayor, on account of
his upright behaviour, and impartial adminiftration
of juftice, began to affemble in great numbers, on
the arrival of the messenger; threatening deftruc-
tion to any one who fhould offer to carry the mayor
away, and, to prevent it, took poffeffion of the
gates and kept conftant guard there. The next day
being Monday, a very numerous body of them,
affembled in chappel field, from whence they pro-
ceeded to the king’s head in the market, where the
messenger then was, and who very narrowly ef-
caped out of town alive. The rioters then proceeded to
plunder the houfes of many perfons whom they fuf-
pected

pected to be enemies to the mayor, or favourers of the parliament's cause: they afterward went to the committee house, where the county arms were lodged, which they rifled; and arming themselves, committed many outrages, before the arrival of Col. Fleetwood's light troop then quartered in the county: upon the troopers entering the city they immediately attacked and dispersed the rioters; many of whom retiring to the committee house, were miserably destroyed by the explosion of more than ninety barrels of gunpowder, which by some accident took fire. The damage done to the adjacent buildings by this most terrible shock, was very considerable; above 100 persons lost their lives, or were miserably wounded: many of them by the fall of timber and stones carried to a considerable distance by the force of the powder*. The day following, the mayor voluntarily set forward for London, and surrendered himself to the parliament; and was confined 'till July 1st, when he was released, after a fine of one thousand pounds, had been set upon him and alderman John Tooly, payable to the corporation of Norwich; which they afterward compounded for four hundred pounds.

A commission of Oyer and Terminer, for the speedy bringing to justice the late rioters, was opened on Christmas day; and out of 108 persons prosecuted thereupon, seven received sentence of

M m 2

death

* The committee house was situated on the spot where Bethel, and the houses on the east of it, belonging to Thomas Starling, Esq; the present mayor, now stand.

death, and were all executed on the castle ditches on the second of January, together with two old women condemned for witchcraft. This year the Guild-day was not observed publickly, through fear of riots.

Jan. 26. It was agreed by the assembly “ that
‘ a congratulatory letter be written to lieutenant
‘ general Cromwell, for the favours he hath done
‘ formerly for this city, and to desire his furtherance
‘ for speeding of the ordinance touching elections,
‘ and the ordinance for gaining the jurisdiction of
‘ Christ’s church, &c. And further, that an ordinance
‘ be drawn, to enable the assembly to appoint, and
‘ choose the preachers to preach at the cathedral,
‘ upon the sabbath day in the forenoon, instead of
‘ the combination, &c.’ And an act for regulating
elections was accordingly passed. On the 30th of
the same month king Charles I. was beheaded
at Whitehall, between the hours of one and two
in the afternoon. Soon after the kings death,
the house of commons published an act, to forbid the
proclaiming of Charles Stuart, eldest son of the late
king, or any other person whomsoever, on pain of
high treason : and afterwards enacted, that the king-
lyoffice should be abolished as unnecessary, burden-
some, and dangerous ; and that the state should be
governed by the representatives of the people in a
house of commons, without king or lords, and un-
der the form of a commonwealth.

In April 1649, the city petitioned the parliament
to be eased in their taxes, by reason of the great de-
cay

cay of its trade, and the poverty of its inhabitants; wheat being then forty shillings, rye twenty two shillings, and barley fifteen shillings a comb, and all other provisions after the same rate; and that proper measures might be taken to open a foreign trade. And in July following, another petition was presented, praying, that the justices of peace for the city might be impowered to act in the precinct of Christ's church, and to unite parishes, and provide for the ministers thereof out of the revenues of the cathedral.

In 1650, William Tooke of Lakenham was elected sheriff, and kept his sheriffalty at his house in Tooke's wood. The same year, the pulpit was brought from the Green-yard adjoining to the cathedral, and placed in that belonging to the new-hall in St. Andrew's; in which hall an exchange was now opened.

On discovery of an intended insurrection in Norfolk in favour of king Charles, which was to have broken out on the seventh of October, several of the conspirators were apprehended, and tried at the new-hall, before three judges commissioned by the parliament for that purpose: who, during their sitting, which continued from Friday Dec. the 20th to Monday the thirtieth of the same month, condemned twenty five persons, who were all executed; some of them in Norwich, and others in different of the county of Norfolk.

In 1651, fresh mackarels were sold at seventeen for a penny.

December

December 16, 1653, Oliver Cromwell was declared lord protector of England, Scotland, and Ireland, after having turned out the parliament, which had sat more than twelve years; and which from that circumstance, was called the long parliament.

In 1654, June 24. the ordinance was published for the six months assessment, for the maintenance of the armies and fleets of the commonwealth, after the rate of 120000*l.* a month for the first three months, and 90000*l.* a month for the latter; towards each monthly payment of the last sum, the city and county of Norwich raised two hundred and forty pounds, and the county of Norfolk four thousand six hundred and sixty pounds. August the twenty ninth, an ordinance was issued for the ejecting of scandalous, ignorant, and insufficient ministers and schoolmasters; whose qualifications were to be tried, by commissioners appointed for that purpose, in every county: in consequence whereof, most of the ablest divines in the kingdom were ejected from their livings, and their places supplied by such, as best suited with the extravagance and hypocrisy of the times.

On Sunday July 20. 1656, the corn, fruits, glass windows, &c. in the city and its environs, were damaged and broken, to the amount of three thousand pounds, by a violent storm of hail, in which the hail stones were of an incredible size, accompanied with thunder and lightning most dreadfully terrifying.

On the death of Oliver Cromwell, which happened September 3, 1658, the mayor received letters

ters from the privy council, notifying that event, and the election of his son Richard Cromwell to the dignity of protector; and commanding him to proclaim the said Richard protector of the three kingdoms; which was accordingly done on the seventh of the same month. The protector's honours were but of short continuance; for in the month of April 1659, the army obliged him to dissolve the parliament which he had convoked; and soon after deposed him from the protectorship. The members of the parliament, dissolved by Oliver Cromwell, April 20. 1653, were now invited to return to the exercise of their authority; and forty two members accordingly assembled; who, from the smallness of their number, were called in derision the rump parliament. The army, being dissatisfied with their behaviour, excluded them from their house in October following, but on the 26th of December they were restored to their seats, by the committee of safety. Feb. 21. general Monk readmitted the members who had been excluded in 1648, agreeably to an address from the citizens of London on that head. The sixteenth of March the rump parliament dissolved itself, after having issued out writs for a free parliament to meet on the twenty fifth day of April 1660; on which day the two houses assembled, the one of lords, and the other of commons, consonantly to the antient constitution: on the first of May the king's declaration was read in parliament, immediately after which, a vote passed in the house of lords ' That ' according to the ancient and fundamental laws of ' this

‘ this kingdom, the government is, and ought to be, by king, lords, and commons,’ to which vote the commons readily agreeing, king Charles the second was proclaimed in London, on the eighth of May, with great solemnity.

King Charles the second was solemnly proclaimed here, on the thirteenth day of May; and the twentieth of the same month was observed as a day of general thanksgiving for the restoration of his majesty and the royal family, and the ancient constitution, both in church and state. The city having in the year 1650, purchased of the state, the fee farm of the city, at that time of the value of one hundred, and thirty two pounds, eighteen shillings, and three pence, now sealed an instrument of resignation of the said fee farm; and moreover, presented his majesty with one thousand pounds, as a testimony of their duty and loyalty.

Mr. George Steward, one of the sheriffs, refusing to attend the mayor to the cathedral, was summoned to appear before the privy council, to answer the same; and some aldermen, not duly elected, were, by express orders of the council, displaced, and others, who had been illegally removed, restored to their offices. On the seventh of August, John Crofts, D. D. was installed dean; and about the same time the pulpit was placed on the north side of the cathedral, where it remained untill the alterations and improvements, now carrying on, were undertaken.

In 1663, Henry duke of Norfolk, and the honourable Henry Howard, dined with the mayor on the guild

guild day ; the latter of whom presented the city with a bason and ewer worth sixty pounds. This year the city charter was renewed, on the payment of a fine of ten pounds : and altho' it was superseded by a subsequent one of the king's, bearing date the twenty second day of March, in the thirty fifth year of his reign ; and by another of king James the second ; yet, as by a proclamation of October 20, 1688, all corporations are restored to the same constitution they enjoyed in 1679, the city always has been, and still continues, to be governed by it. It contains in substance as follows ;

‘ Whereas, the city of Norwich is an antient populous city, and county by itself, formerly incorporated by the name of the mayor, sheriffs, citizens and commonalty of the city of Norwich ; and, as such, enjoyed many privileges and immunities, &c.
 ‘ We do therefore, hereby, grant to the said mayor, sheriffs, citizens and commonalty ; that they, and their successors, shall freely have, use and enjoy, all manner of liberties, free customs, franchises, immunities, exemptions, claims, and jurisdictions, belonging to the city ; and also, all and singular lands, tenements, marts, markets, fairs, customs for cattle, liberties, privileges and hereditaments whatever, which they ever had granted to them as a body corporate, by any of our predecessors, kings of England, by charters or letters patent ; or which they ever used, or enjoyed lawfully, whether by grant, custom or prescription, or any other way whatever, in as ample a manner as heretofore.
 ‘ Further granting, that the mayor, recorder and

‘ steward, for the time being, and all such aldermen
‘ as shall have borne the office of mayor of the said
‘ city, shall be afterwards, so long as they continue
‘ aldermen, justices of the peace in the city and its
‘ county; with the same power, as all other justices
‘ of the peace have in other counties of this realm;
‘ with full power to inquire of, hear, and determine,
‘ by the oaths of lawful men of the said city and
‘ county, all felonies, transgressions, regratings,
‘ and extortions whatever, committed within their
‘ jurisdiction; at which sessions, the mayor, record-
‘ er, or steward, or two of them, shall be personally
‘ present; who shall also make enquiry &c. of all
‘ conventicles, or meetings of people, contrary to
‘ the kings peace, riots, &c. and proceed thereup-
‘ on according to the laws of the land. And e-
‘ very alderman that hath not been mayor, shall be
‘ justice of peace, in that ward only, for which he
‘ was chosen alderman; and shall be sworn accord-
‘ ingly, at his admission, before the mayor and al-
‘ dermen, or at least two of them. And all the
‘ officers appointed by the charter, shall take the
‘ oaths of obedience and supremacy, to be admi-
‘ nistred according to the laws and statutes of the
‘ realm. And all officers and their deputies, justi-
‘ ces, &c. (except the justices for the several wards
‘ only) shall take all oaths heretofore as usually taken
‘ before such persons, as was formerly accustomed
‘ to be done. And if any person or persons, in any
‘ ward, elected on the common council, or livery of
‘ the city, after ten days notice of such his elec-
‘ tion

tion given him by the mayor, shall refuse to take
 the oaths belonging to his office, before the mayor,
 or, or his deputy, and refuse, at the next assembly
 to shew good and sufficient reason for so doing, to
 be allowed by the mayor, sheriffs, aldermen, and
 common council of the city, or the majority of
 them; they shall be compelled to pay such reasonable
 fines for their contempt, as the mayor, sheriffs,
 citizens, and commonalty, or the major part
 of them, shall set upon them; to be expended in
 maintaining the city walls, or for any other public
 uses, so as each fine does not exceed the sum of
 twenty pounds: and if any person elected, be discharged
 from the office to which he was elected, by the majority
 of the assembly, then another shall be elected, by the ward,
 in his room, at the guildhall, in like manner as his election
 was made. And, the sheriffs of the city shall be elected
 in the following manner, viz. the mayor, sheriffs, and
 aldermen for the time being, or the majority of them,
 from time to time yearly, at any time, between the
 twenty fourth day of June, and the first day of
 September following, when, and as often as they shall
 please to meet, shall choose and fix upon a fit and
 sufficient person*, for one of the succeeding sheriffs:
 and the mayor shall summon the citizens, inhabiting
 in the city and county of the same, to appear at the
 guild hall, on the last

N n 2

Tuesday

* The method of notifying their election, is to send a letter by the sword bearer, to the person elected, signifying their choice of him to the office of sheriff.

‘ Tuesday in August yearly, when they, or the ma-
‘ jority of them, shall freely choose and fix upon
‘ another fit and sufficient person, for the other she-
‘ riff for the succeeding year; which two persons
‘ so elected, shall on the twenty ninth day of Sep-
‘ tember following, take the usual and ancient oath,
‘ for the due execution of their office in the city and
‘ its county, for one whole year following, before the
‘ mayor or his deputy, and two or more justices of
‘ the peace in the guild hall, unless prevented by
‘ sickness or other bodily infirmity: and, in such
‘ case, they shall take it before the mayor, or his
‘ deputy, and two other justices, in any convenient
‘ place in the city; and shall exercise their office
‘ in all things as their predecessors have done. And
‘ the aldermen for the said city, shall be elected
‘ in the following manner, viz. when any of the
‘ twenty four aldermen shall die, or, for any reason-
‘ able cause, be removed from that office; then the
‘ mayor, or his deputy, in a convenient time after
‘ such death or removal, shall summon all the citi-
‘ zens inhabiting the great ward, or wards for which
‘ such alderman, or aldermen are to be chosen; and
‘ the majority of them, so assembled, shall choose
‘ one or more of the most reputable, and able citi-
‘ zens being freemen, of the said city to be alder-
‘ man or aldermen, in the place or places of those
‘ who are dead or removed. And any person, so
‘ chosen, shall be sworn to the due execution of his
‘ office, before the mayor and aldermen, or such of
‘ them as shall be present at a court of mayoralty,
‘ which

‘ which shall be held in the council chamber of the
‘ city, in some convenient time after such choice :
‘ and, after the oath be taken, they shall be alder-
‘ men for life; (unless removed for a reasonable cause:)
‘ and, if any refuse to serve, when elected, or, if a-
‘ ny alderman after he be sworn shall leave the city
‘ and dwell elsewhere, and neglect his office as al-
‘ derman, or shall not return within six months, after
‘ notice given him in writing, under the hand and
‘ seal of the mayor for the time being, and resume his
‘ office, then the mayor, sheriffs, aldermen and com-
‘ mon council men, or the majority of them, in
‘ some public assembly, shall fine him in any sum
‘ not exceeding two hundred pounds, who shall so
‘ refuse to take upon him the execution of the office ;
‘ and him who shall not return to exercise his office
‘ after the oath taken, in any sum not exceeding one
‘ hundred pounds ; which fines shall be laid out in re-
‘ pairing the walls and bridges, or defraying the other
‘ public expenses of the city. And the mayor, she-
‘ riffs, citizens and commonalty, or the major part
‘ of them, with the consent of the majority of the
‘ common council, at any public assembly, may
‘ make laws, orders, and constitutions, for the bet-
‘ ter regulating and governing the citizens, and se-
‘ perate companies of trades, and occupations in the
‘ said city, which shall be binding, under such pe-
‘ nalties as shall be fixed ; so that they be agreeable
‘ to truth and reason, and the common benefit of
‘ the city of Norwich, and of the people resorting
‘ thither : at the same time enjoying full power to
‘ alter

‘ alter them, as occasion may serve; and to levy the
‘ penalties upon the goods and chattels of such as of-
‘ fend against them by distress: such laws, &c. not
‘ containing any thing contrary to the statutes and
‘ laws of the realm. It was also further granted, that
‘ the mayor and justices, or any three, or more of
‘ them (the mayor always to be one) shall have and
‘ hold, as they immemorially have done, a court
‘ of equity by bill or plaint, exhibited before them,
‘ by any citizen or inhabitant of the city, against
‘ any person whatever (so that any cause for relief in
‘ equity be made appear, and no remedy to be had
‘ by common law) for, and concerning any action
‘ cause, suit, or matter of difference, arising with-
‘ in the city; and to bring all such pleas before
‘ them, out of the court of pleas usually held for
‘ the said city, before the city sheriffs: the may-
‘ or and justices having full power to examine wit-
‘ nesses, to take depositions and to make decrees, in
‘ all such cases, according to law, equity, and good
‘ conscience, for the speedy dispatch of justice. The
‘ mayor and town clerk, for the time being, may
‘ take recognizances in Norwich of the statute sta-
‘ ple, in any sum or sums, according to the statute,
‘ in as ample a form as the mayors of London,
‘ York, or Bristol may do. And agreeably to the
‘ ancient custom of the city, and the oaths taken
‘ by the freemen, no freeman, for the time to come,
‘ shall be partner with, or factor for any person that
‘ is not free of the city, either in buying, selling,
‘ bargaining for, or uttering any stuffs, stockings,
‘ or

‘ or other commodities, or merchandise made, or
‘ wrought in the city, or its suburbs.

‘ The sheriffs of the city, and its county, had also
‘ authority granted to them to hold their court of pleas
‘ in the guild hall, and to prosecute and try in the
‘ name of the mayor, sheriffs, citizens, and commonalty
‘ of the said city, any plea, in any personal or mixed
‘ action, and any cause or matter, arising or happening
‘ in the said city or county: and upon every re-
‘ covery or judgment given in the sheriffs court, they
‘ may levy damages given and costs of suit, by di-
‘ stress taken on the goods, and chattles of every
‘ person, against whom such judgment has been gi-
‘ ven: and in failure of goods and chattels, then on
‘ those of their sureties; or may arrest their bodies, or
‘ the bodies of the said sureties. It contains likewise a
‘ free grant to the mayor, of all goods and chattels
‘ of all such as are found to be felo de se, and all
‘ deodands, without paying any thing therefore, or
‘ giving any account thereof. And a full and ample
‘ confirmation to the city, of all its former charters,
‘ and grants, of what nature soever, on condition,
‘ that the ancient fee farms, and annual payments
‘ heretofore made, be regularly discharged. And
‘ further also, that the chancellor of England, trea-
‘ surer, judges, commissioners &c. for the time to
‘ come, shall, on these letters patent being produced,
‘ or any constat, or exemplification thereof, under
‘ the great seal of England, allow and cause to be
‘ allowed, to the mayor, sheriffs, citizens, and com-
‘ monalty of the city of Norwich, for the time be-
‘ ing,

‘ing, all and singular the jurisdictions, liberties, privileges, franchises, powers, authorities, immunities, exemptions, emoluments, and other grants, without any writ of allowance or any other confirmation, warrant, dispensation, or toleration whatsoever, to be had or obtained for that purpose.’ This charter is witnessed by the king at Westminster, the twenty sixth day of June, in the fifteenth year of his reign.

Complaint having been made of great injuries and losses sustained by the common people on account of the frequency of lotteries, puppet plays, shews, &c. the king in the month of July in this year, authorised the mayor, sheriffs, aldermen, &c. and their successors, to limit and determine the time of continuance of all lotteries, puppet plays, shews, &c. in the city, as they shall judge to be fit and reasonable

In 1665, the plague broke out here, and made dreadful ravages: the burials in the space of twelve months amounted to three thousand and twelve, of whom two thousand, two hundred, and fifty one, were taken off by that fatal distemper. During its continuance, at the instance of the justices for the county of Norfolk, the market was appointed to be held in the town close. The city was not quite cleared of the infection ‘till toward the latter end of the year 1667; when, on its entirely ceasing, the nineteenth day of September was ordered by the bishop to be observed as a day of general thanksgiving to Almighty God, for his great mercy in putting a stop to its further progress.

In 1670, the contest, which had a long time subsisted between the mayor and aldermen on the one part, and the sheriffs of Norwich on the other part, concerning the payment of the fee farm rent, was determined in favour of the latter; and it was adjudged, by the barons of the exchequer, that the said payment belonged to the mayor, &c. and that the sheriffs were entirely discharged of it. But notwithstanding this solemn decision the mayor, &c. by application to the king and council, obtained an order, that the fee farm should be paid by the sheriffs, on the court's continuing to them their usual allowance.

Lord Henry Howard, who, on many occasions, had shewn a particular regard for this city, as a further mark of his esteem, presented it with a very magnificent mace of silver gilt, and a gown of crimson velvet, to be worn by the mayor on any extraordinary occasion.

In 1671, the said lord Henry Howard, who the year following was created earl of Norwich and duke of Norfolk, entertained the king and queen together with the dukes of York, Monmouth, Buckingham, &c. at the duke's palace, in a most sumptuous and magnificent manner. During his majesty's stay here, he conferred the honour of knighthood on that eminent physician, doctor Thomas Browne, author of *Religio Medici*, and many other learned books; who was born in 1605, and died on the nineteenth day of October 1682, in the 77th year of his age, and lies interred in the church of St. Peter of Mancroft.

In 1673, fell a very deep snow in the month of February, which laid upon the ground seven weeks: on its thawing, it occasioned so great a flood, as to damage considerably most of the bridges in and near the city.

In 1680, a copy of bishop Cofin's will was procured, as far as it related to the city's right of nomination to any scholarships founded in consequence thereof, in the university of Cambridge: by which it appeared that the bishop had settled a rent charge of the annual value of twenty eight pounds, issuing out of his estates in the county of Durham, of which see he had been bishop, to be applied, amongst other things, to the founding of three scholarships in Gonville and Caius college, each of the yearly value of six pounds, thirteen shillings, and four pence, for three youths born in Norwich, and educated in the publick grammar school there; to be elected on any vacancy, by the master of the said college, with the consent of the fellows, or at least of the deans: notice is to be given to the master of Norwich school upon every vacancy, unless it should happen that there be Norwich lads already admitted in the college, whom the master shall think proper to elect on such vacancy; and further, on a failure of Norwich lads, the deficiencies to be made up from the county of Norfolk, in the manner prescribed by Dr. Caius in his statutes.

In 1681, his royal highness James duke of York paid the city a visit. The same year, after the king had set forth a declaration containing his reasons for dissolving

dissolving the two last parliaments, which declaration; by his majesty's order, had been published and read in the churches, the tide of loyalty ran so very high, that addressees were presented to him from every part, approving his conduct in general: that from Norwich, which ran highest for the prerogative, was presented at the King's-Bench as a public libel, by the grand jury of Middlesex; but the court took no notice of it. And further to express their zeal for government, at an assembly held the twenty first day of September, 1682, it was carried on a vote, forty against twenty two, for surrendering the charter into the king's hands; and it was accordingly surrendered, notwithstanding the strongest remonstrances of above nine hundred citizens against it. This was done upon pretence, that from the assurances they had received, there could be no doubt made of their obtaining another, filled with larger immunities and more unlimited privileges; but on their receiving their new charter, they found their mistake; for it was so far from allowing any liberties not heretofore enjoyed, that it contained a remarkable clause whereby the king reserved to himself a power to displace any magistrate who should make himself obnoxious to royal prerogative, by signifying his pleasure under his privy seal.

By this charter, Robert Paston, earl of Yarmouth, lord lieutenant of Norfolk and Norwich, was appointed recorder; on his death, in 1683, he was succeeded by his eldest son William, earl of Yarmouth; who, at an assembly, held on the nineteenth day

day of July, produced letters patent under the great seal of England, empowering him to appoint a deputy recorder: and accordingly nominated John Warkehouse, esquire to that office. The assembly looking upon this as a violation of the ancient liberties of the city, and contradictory to the express sense and meaning of their new charter, resolved to petition the king thereupon, but could obtain no redress; they were obliged therefore to submit, and to swear the said Mr. Warkehouse deputy recorder.

On the fourth day of April, 1687, in the third year of king James the second, was published the declaration for liberty of conscience, grounded, as the king informed his council, on observations he had made, respecting the endeavours used in the foregoing reigns, to establish uniformity of worship, that they had proved totally ineffectual, and been extremely prejudicial to his people; that for his own part, it was always his opinion, that no force could be put upon conscience; and that it was contradictory to the true spirit of the christian religion, to persecute any man for conscience sake. The undoubted meaning and intention of this declaration was to establish the popish, upon the ruins of the protestant religion. In consequence of this, and the king's attempt in the preceeding year to suspend the penal laws, by a pretended royal prerogative, the papists throughout the kingdom made a free and open profession of their religion; the jesuits erected colleges and seminaries in most of the great towns; and four popish bishops were publickly

publickly consecrated in the king's chappel, who afterward went down to exercise their ecclesiastical functions in their several dioceses, under the title of vicars apostolical. The papists residing in this city, had the granary at the new hall assigned them as a place of publick worship, which was opened as such, on Sunday December the eleventh. The sectaries likewise laying hold of the liberty granted them by this declaration, opened meeting houses, for their different denominations; the presbyterians in St. George's at Colgate, and the independents in St. Edmund's.

By the king's mandate, nineteen of the common council, and ten aldermen, one of whom was then sheriff, were displaced. But on the issuing forth a proclamation on the 20th of October 1688, whereby all corporations were brought back to the same constitution, on which they stood in one thousand six hundred and seventy nine, the ejected aldermen, &c. were restored again to their respective offices.

On July the twenty fifth, the king commanded the corporation to admit thirty quakers to the freedom of the city, and to dispense with their taking the oaths usual on that occasion; but this the corporation resolutely refused to comply with. December the first, Henry duke of Norfolk, at the head of three hundred knights and gentlemen proceeded into the market place, and openly declared for a free parliament; the mayor and the rest of the body corporate joined him there, and made the same declaration.

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A few days after the common people pulled down the popish chappel, and demolished and burned all the furniture thereto belonging, and plundered several houses inhabited by papists: but these commotions were soon put an end to, by the vigilance and resolution of the magistrates.

In 1692, a soldier was shot in Chappel-field for desertion.

In the same year, Mr. John Larwood, one of the people called Independents, being elected sheriff, absolutely refused either to serve the office, or to pay a fine to be excused therefrom: upon which he was summoned to appear before the privy-council, to give his reasons for such refusal; and upon his declaring, that he was not qualified by law, to serve that office, for that he never had received, or would hereafter receive the sacrament, according to the form made use of in the church by law established, he was excused therefrom; and a mandamus was thereupon issued out for the election of another sheriff.

In the year following Wasey and Pindar, (both dissenters) were elected sheriffs, but refused serving for the same reasons, as before given by Larwood; and two others were chosen in their stead. Wasey and Pindar however agreed afterward to pay a fine; and Larwood, on a hearing of the case, was fined five marks by the judges; and subjected to be further fined by the corporation on any future refusal to serve the office.

In 1695, the state of the coin being become a national grievance, was taken into consideration, and an

an address prepared by the house of lords, to the throne, to put a stop to the currency of diminished coin; the matter was at length taken up by the commons, where after long and vehement debates, it was resolved to proceed to a new coinage: and that the loss accruing to the revenue from clipped money should be borne by the publick; that after an appointed day, no clipped money should pass in payment, except to the collectors of the revenue, or taxes, or upon loans, or payments into the exchequer; that, after a second day appointed, no clipped money of any sort should pass in any payment whatsoever; and that a third day should be fixed, for all persons to bring in their clipped money to be recoin'd, after which they should have no allowance upon what they might offer. They came likewise to the following resolutions: that the recompence for supplying the deficiency of clipped money, should extend to all silver coin, though of a coarser alloy than the standard; that the collectors of his majesty's revenues, should receive all such monies; that five per cent. should be given on all milled, or broad unclipped money, brought in to be exchanged for clipped money, throughout the kingdom; that three pence per ounce should be allowed to such persons as should bring wrought plate to the mint, to be coined; that any person might pay in his whole year's land tax in clipped money at one certain time to be appointed for that purpose; and that commissioners should be appointed to pay and distribute the milled, and broad unclipped money, and the new coined money in lieu

lieu of that which was diminished. A bill was prepared agreeable to these resolutions, which received the royal assent on the twenty first of January : in consequence of which mints were erected at York, Bristol, Norwich, Exeter and Chester, and the business carried on with that spirit, that in less than a year, the coin of this kingdom, from being the most defective, became the best in Europe ; the quantity coined here amounted to near three hundred thousand pounds.

About the same time the water works at the new mills were undertaken, and perfected in about two years.

In 1698 the winter proved very long and severe ; when wheat rose to the enormous price of forty four shillings a comb. A quantity of snow fell on the third of may.

In the year 1700 the new hall in St. Andrew's was opened as a public exchange, to be used by the merchants &c. for transacting business, every day, from eleven in the forenoon, to one in the afternoon ; holidays excepted, and those times when the corporation business required the use of it. It continued open about a year, and was then shut up.

January the seventh, Robert Watts, was executed before his own door, in the parish of St. Augustine for the barbarous murder of his wife, by cutting her throat.

In 1701, a printing office was opened by Francis Burges, and that noble art revived here, after having been discontinued for a number of years. The same year an act passed for lighting the streets of
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this city, which was confirmed by a clause in the workhouse act, passed in the tenth of queen Anne, by which it was enacted, ‘ That every householder
 ‘ in the said city of Norwich, chargeable with two
 ‘ pence or more by the week, towards the relief
 ‘ of the poor, shall yearly, from Michaelmas day
 ‘ until Lady-day, every night as it shall grow dark,
 ‘ set, or hang out on the outside of their respective
 ‘ houses, or near thereto, candles or reasonable and
 ‘ convenient lights, and shall continue the same un-
 ‘ till eleven o’clock at night, for the enlightening
 ‘ of the streets, market places, publick lanes and
 ‘ passages, for the conveniency of passengers; or
 ‘ otherwise shall contribute towards such lights
 ‘ so to be set or hung out, as aforesaid, in such pro-
 ‘ portionable manner as the mayor and court of al-
 ‘ dermen of the said city shall direct and appoint,
 ‘ under the pain of forfeiting for every neglect or
 ‘ default thereof, two shillings, to be levied by di-
 ‘ stress and sale of the offenders goods, to be dis-
 ‘ posed of in support of lights, for the purpose a-
 ‘ foresaid.’ A committee is accordingly appointed
 in consequence of the said act, to settle the rates
 and proportions of each inhabitant. Another act
 also passed in the year 1701, for erecting a court of
 conscience in this city; which has been of great be-
 nefit to the poorer sort of people both debtors and
 creditors. It is thereby enacted, ‘ That there shall be
 ‘ a court of conscience, or request, for the relief of
 ‘ the poorer sort of people in small debts; and that
 ‘ the mayor, aldermen, and common council of the

' said city, for the time being, or any three or more
 ' of them, whereof the mayor, or one of the alder-
 ' men, to be one of the said three, shall be
 ' commissioners for hearing and determining all such
 ' matters and causes, as by that act are appointed
 ' to be heard and determined in the said court of
 ' conscience: and to prevent defrauding or op-
 ' pressing the poor, either plaintiff or defendant,
 ' the costs of suit shall be as follows; for every
 ' plaint two pence; for every order four pence; for
 ' every warrant to commit to prison six pence; for
 ' every search two pence; for every satisfaction
 ' acknowledged on the order four pence; for every
 ' warrant for levying the debt by sale of goods six
 ' pence; to the beadle attending the court for warn-
 ' ing every person four pence; for serving every
 ' warrant four pence: and the said commissioners
 ' are impowered to nominate a register or clerk, de-
 ' puties and beadles of the said court, after the death
 ' or removal, in case of misdemeanor, of Thomas
 ' Steward, gentleman, who by the act was appoint-
 ' ed register clerk, and had thereby a power of
 ' nominating his own deputies and beadles, or the
 ' deaths or removals of such deputies and beadles as
 ' were nominated by the said Thomas Steward.
 ' The commissioners to meet every Monday, and
 ' oftener, if they shall think fit, in such place as they
 ' shall appoint, and the greater number of them
 ' then present, to hear and determine all such mat-
 ' ters of debt, or actions on the case, upon any as-
 ' sumpsit for the recovery of any debt not amount-
 ' ing

‘ing to forty shillings; and every person or per-
‘sons, inhabiting within the city and county of
‘Norwich, and the parishes and liberties thereof,
‘who shall have any debt or debts owing unto him,
‘her, or them, by any person or persons inhabit-
‘ing the said city, or county, or parishes, or liber-
‘ties thereof, being under the value of forty shillings,
‘may cause such debtor, or debtors, to be warned
‘by the beadle of the said court of conscience, or
‘his agent by writing left at the house, or place of
‘abode, of such debtor or debtors, to appear before
‘the said commissioners; who, or any three or more
‘of them, have power by this act to set down such
‘order, and orders, to be made between such party
‘and parties complainants, and his, her, or their
‘debtor or debtors defendants, touching such debts
‘not amounting to forty shillings; as they shall find
‘to stand with equity, and good conscience, in a
‘summary way, with or without adjournment; not
‘confining themselves to the exact forms or methods
‘of the common law, or other courts of justice; which
‘orders shall be final and conclusive to all parties
‘therein concerned, their executors and administra-
‘tors: nor shall any writ of error, certiorari, or
‘process of law, or equity, lie for the removal, stay,
‘or reversal of the same: and further, that all such
‘orders shall be registered in a book fairly written,
‘to be kept in the said court, and the plaintiff and
‘defendant shall keep and observe the same in all
‘points: and the said commissioners are impowered
‘to administer an oath to the plaintiff, defendant,

‘ or any witness produced by either party, as they
‘ shall think convenient. And if any creditor or
‘ debtor, after warning given, shall without just and
‘ reasonable cause, to be allowed by the said court,
‘ refuse to appear in the said court, then it shall be
‘ lawful for the commissioners, or any three or more
‘ of them to commit such person, so refusing, to some
‘ prison within the said city, or county of the said ci-
‘ ty ; there to remain, without bail or mainprize, un-
‘ till he shall fulfill the order of the court. And in
‘ case any plaintiff, or defendant, shall not obey and
‘ perform such orders and decrees, as the court shall
‘ make concerning any debt or debts, costs or da-
‘ mages, for or in respect of the same, then the com-
‘ missioners may order such debts and costs by them
‘ awarded, to be levied on the goods and chattels of
‘ such plaintiff or defendant by sale of the same ;
‘ the overplus to be returned to such par or par-
‘ ties so offending : and if sufficient goods cannot be
‘ found, within the jurisdiction of the court, for the
‘ aforesaid purposes, then the commissioners, or any
‘ three or more of them, may order such party and
‘ parties to some prison, within the said city and
‘ county of Norwich, there to remain without bail
‘ or main prize, till he, she, or they, shall obey
‘ such orders of the said court. And, if any per-
‘ son or persons as aforesaid, inhabiting the said city
‘ of Norwich, shall after the first of August, 1701,
‘ commence, and prosecute any action, in any of
‘ his majesty’s courts at Westminster, against any
‘ person, inhabiting within the city and county
‘ of

' of Norwich, and liberties thereof, for any debt
 ' or sum due upon contract, promise, specialty, or
 ' otherwise which shall not amount to forty shil-
 ' lings over and above costs; in such case it is e-
 ' nacted, that no judgment shall be entered upon
 ' record upon any such verdict; and if any judge-
 ' ment shall be entered thereon, then such judge-
 ' ment shall be void, and the defendant shall have
 ' his costs in such suit, to be taxed by the said court,
 ' or their proper officer, where such action shall be
 ' tried. And, if any person or persons, shall be su-
 ' ed for any thing by him, or them, done or exe-
 ' cuted by the authority, or in pursuance of this
 ' act, he or they may plead the general issue, and
 ' and give the said act, or any other special matter
 ' or thing, in evidence for his or their defence; and
 ' if the plaintiff be nonsuited in such action, or for-
 ' bear further prosecution, or suffer discontinuance,
 ' or upon trial a verdict shall pass against him, then
 ' the defendant or defendants shall have treble costs,
 ' and such execution and means to recover the same,
 ' as in other cases where costs by law are given
 ' to defendants. But this act does not extend to
 ' any debt for rent upon lease for lands or tene-
 ' ments, or any other real contract; nor to any
 ' debt, that shall arise by reason of any cause
 ' concerning a testament, or matrimony, or any
 ' thing properly belonging to the ecclesiastical court
 ' tho' the same be under forty shillings. And fur-
 ' ther, that nothing in this act shall affect any per-
 ' son residing within the limits of the palace of the
 ' bishop

‘ bishop of Norwich, or the precincts of the cathedral church of Norwich, so long as they shall continue to reside in the said exempted places.’

On the twenty third day of May, 1701, the first year of queen Anne, war was proclaimed here against the French and Spaniards.

In 1703, Hardley cross, situated at the extent of the city’s jurisdiction on the river, was repaired at the expense of the city.

In 1704, happened a remarkable contest on the election of an alderman for the great ward of Conisford, in the room of Augustine Briggs, esquire; on casting up the polls a majority appeared for Thomas Dunch; the mayor however swore Benjamin Austin, who, on complaint made, was afterward displaced, and Mr. Dunch sworn by mandamus. In the same year, the candidates for members to serve in parliament were, Waller Bacon, John Chambers, Thomas Blofield and Thomas Palgrave, esquires; the two former had a majority, but not being freemen, the sheriffs made a double return: but after a full hearing in the house the gentlemen who had the majority were declared duly elected; the objection that the word cives, or citizens, must mean freemen, being overruled; for whether it did or not, the case would not be thereby affected, for that the citizens by electing them, made them such. William Blyth, esquire, mayor, was by order of parliament, committed into the custody of a serjeant at arms for irregular and undue proceedings at the said election.

In 1705, the weavers hall was broke open and the books destroyed, since which time the custom of sealing of stuffs has been disused.

In 1706, a great part of the city was laid under water by two violent floods, both of which happened in the month of November.

In 1709, wheat was sold here at 40s. a comb.

In 1711, the wherry, in its passage from Yarmouth to Norwich, was overfet on Braydon, in the night of the fifth of October, by which accident twenty persons lost their lives.

The same year the act passed for erecting work-houses, &c. in this city, by which it is enacted;

“That from and after the first day of May, one thousand seven hundred and twelve, there shall be a corporation, to continue for ever, within the said city of Norwich and county of the same and the liberties thereof, consisting of the mayor, recorder and steward, justices of the peace, sheriffs, and aldermen of the said city, for the time being; and of thirty two other persons, of the most honest, discreet, and charitable inhabitants of the said city and county, in the four great wards in the said city, and the towns and out-parishes in the county of the said city; (that is to say) eight out of every of the said great wards; and of such other charitable persons as shall be elected and constituted guardians of the poor of the said city, in such manner as is herein after expressed; and the said first thirty two persons shall be elected on the third day of May next ensuing, or within three days after, at an assembly of

of the said city for that purpose to be held, by the votes of the mayor, sheriffs, citizens, and commonalty in common-council assembled, or of the major part of them then present.

And the said thirty-two persons, afore said, shall continue in their office until others shall be elected in their rooms; and in case any of the persons so elected, or any other person to be at any time after elected in their room, shall, after their respective elections, happen to die, or be removed, then the mayor of the said city or his deputy, within ten days next after the death or removal of such persons, shall summon and hold an assembly, to elect and choose out of the ward or wards, where the person or persons so dying or removed did belong, other or others in his or their place or places; which said assembly the said mayor, or his deputy, are authorized and required to hold, and give notice thereof two days at the least before the holding the same, by summoning the several justices, sheriffs, aldermen, and common-council men of the said city, to appear at such election: which said mayor, recorder, and steward, justices of the peace, sheriffs, and aldermen, and thirty-two persons so elected, and hereafter to be elected, together with such other charitable persons to be elected, as is herein after provided, shall be, and be called, *Guardians of the Poor of the City and County of Norwich, and Liberties, of the same*; and the said guardians, or the major part of them, shall appoint a fit person to be and attend as clerk at such respective courts.

And

And to the intent that all the inhabitants of the said city and county, qualify'd for the said office or trust of guardians in manner herein after mentioned, may, in their turns, be or have the opportunity of being chosenthereto; be it further enacted, that on every third day of May, or within three days after in every succeeding year, for ever, the mayor of the said city, or his deputy, are hereby required and authorized to hold such court or courts of assembly, at which time and times the clerk, shall declare the names of the first four persons, of each ward, in the order as they were, or shall then stand entered as guardians in the said book or books; used for that purpose, and such four persons, in every such ward respectively, shall cease to be Guardians; and a new election shall be made by the said mayor, sheriffs, citizens and commonalty, of four other persons qualified, as is herein after mentioned, out of every respective ward, to fill up and supply the places of such first four persons as shall so have been and then ceased to be guardians: and entry shall be made of the names, surnames and additions of the persons so to be new elected according to the priority of such their elections; and that the said first four persons, or any of them, who shall so have been and then ceased to be guardians, shall be capable of being again chosen guardians, if they will accept of the same, and not otherwise, and so toties quoties in every such second year for ever, to be computed from the last preceding election.

And the said mayor, recorder, steward, justices of peace, sheriffs, aldermen, and thirty two guardians for the time being, shall for ever hereafter, in name and fact be one body politick and corporate in law, and have a perpetual succession, and be called by the name of The Governor, Deputy Governor, Assistants, and Guardians of the Poor in the said City and County of Norwich, and liberties of the same: and be enabled to plead and sue, and to be sued and impleaded by that name; and by that name shall and may, without licence in mortmain, purchase, take or receive any lands, tenements or hereditaments, of the gift, alienation or demise of any person or persons, having a right, and not being otherwise disabled, to grant alien or demise the same, who are hereby, without further licence, enabled to transfer and grant the same, and any goods and chattels whatsoever, unto and for the use and benefit of the corporation aforesaid.

And the said mayor, recorder, steward, justices of the peace, sheriffs, aldermen, and guardians, or the major part of them, whereof the said mayor or his deputy, to be one, shall have, authority to meet on the seventh day of May next ensuing, in the guildhall in the market-place of the said city, or in some other convenient place; and shall on that day, or any other day or time that to them shall seem convenient, elect and constitute out of and from amongst themselves, one governor, one deputy-governor, one treasurer, and twenty assistants, to continue in the said office for one year, and from thence-

thenceforth the said governor, deputy-governor, assistants, and treasurer, and other officers, shall yearly by the said mayor, or his deputy, recorder, steward, justices of peace, sheriffs, aldermen, and guardians, or by the major part of them then present, be elected and constituted out of and from amongst such guardians as aforesaid, on the seventh of May or any other day or time that to them shall seem convenient in every year, to continue in their respective offices for one year then next ensuing, and no longer, and the said mayor, or his deputy, recorder, steward, justices of the peace, sheriffs, aldermen and guardians, shall have power, in case of the death or removal of any such officer, or refusal of any of the four persons aforesaid that were guardians the preceding election, so elected before their said year expired, to elect and constitute others in their room, to hold the said office for the remainder of the said year; and shall have power and authority to remove, displace, and put any officer aforesaid, out of his said office, and to elect another in his room.

And in case any person at any time hereafter chosen governor, deputy governor, assistant or guardian, shall neglect or refuse to take upon him the said office or employment, every such person shall forfeit and lose to the said corporation for the use of the said corporation, the several sums herein after mentioned (that is to say) every person so chosen governor, any sum not exceeding twenty pounds, nor less than ten pounds; every deputy-governor,

any sum not exceeding fifteen pounds, and not less than seven pounds; treasurer any sum not exceeding twenty pounds and not less than ten pounds; and every assistant or guardian any sum not exceeding ten pounds, and not less than five pounds

And the governor, or in his default, the deputy-governor, or in both their defaults, four of the assistants, shall have power and authority, upon the first Tuesday in every kalendar month in every year, to hold and keep a court of the said corporation within the said city of Norwich, of one and twenty of the said guardians at least (that is to say) the governor shall hold the said court between the hours of two and three in the afternoon; and in his default, the deputy-governor or any four of the said assistants, shall, after the hour of three in the afternoon hold the same; and also the governor shall have power and authority, at any other time as to him shall seem meet, to hold a court of the said corporation, upon two days notice at least to be given of such court, and in case any twenty of the guardians, shall signify it under their hands to the governor that it is their desire that a special court of the said corporation may be called and held, the said governor is hereby enjoined and required to summon, and hold such court at such time as the said twenty guardians shall so desire; and on his refusal or default, the deputy-governor for the time being, on such signification is enjoined and required to summon, and hold the said court, and on his refusal or default, any four of the said assistants shall have authority to summon,

summon, and hold the said court: at all which courts all the guardians or members of the corporation are hereby enjoined to appear and be present, and not to depart from the same without licence of the said court on pain to forfeit and lose any reasonable sum or sums of money, not exceeding ten shillings, and the said court or the major part of them, are hereby empowered to summon to appear before them any of the inhabitants of the said city and county, and liberties thereof, to answer to any matters relating to the said corporation; who are hereby required to appear upon such summons, and to answer all questions upon oath relating to such matters as shall be put to them by the said governor, deputy-governor, or any of the assistants, on forfeiture, of ten shillings for every default.

And the said corporation shall have power and authority, to appoint a common seal or seals for the use of the corporation, and to make and ordain by-laws, rules, and ordinances for the better governing the said corporation, and the poor of the said city and county, or any trade or business that shall be set on foot by the said corporation for employing the said poor; and to purchase, buy, or erect one or more hospital or hospitals, work-house or work-houses, house or houses of correction, within the said city and county, and to provide what other necessities they shall think convenient for the setting to work and employing the poor of the said city and county, and to compell such idle or lazy poor people, begging or seeking relief, who do not betake themselves

selves to f me lawful imployment, and fuch other poor who do or fhall hereafter receive alms or collection money of the refpective parifhes or places where they inhabit or feek the fame, or by any of the laws now in force, or hereafter to be in force, ought to be maintained and provided for by any parifh or place within the faid city and county, to dwell and inhabit, or to work in fuch hospital or work-houfe or elfewhere, and alfo to fet to work all perfons fent into fuch houfes of correction; and to detain and keep in the fervice of the faid corporation, or to fet to work until the age of fixteen years, any poor child or children of the faid city and county, begging relief, and after they fhall have attained their faid age of fixteen years, or fooner, the corporation, by indenture under their common feal, fhall have power to bind out and put forth fuch child or children, apprentices to any honeft perfon or perfons who are willing to receive fuch child or children, for any number of years not exceeding feven years.

And the faid court fhall have power to inflict fuch correction and punifhment on any poor perfon or perfons within the faid hospital, work-houfe &c. that fhall not conform to rules and ordinances or fhall mifbehave themfelves in the fame, as to them fhall feem reasonable.

And it fhall be lawful for the faid court to fet down and afcertain what fum or fums of money fhall be needful for the buying, building, making, and erecting of fuch hospitals, work-houfes, or houfes of correction, fo that the fame do not exceed the
fum

sum of five thousand pounds, to be raised within the space of twelve months, by such monthly, quarterly, and other payments, as they shall in their discretion think fit; and also from time to time to set down and ascertain what weekly, monthly, or other sum or sums of money, shall be needful for the maintenance and imployment of the poor in the said hospitals, work-houses, or houses of correction, so as such poor of all and every the respective parishes in the said city and county, and liberties of the same, as are unable to work or get their living, be weekly provided for thereout: to the intent, that no other levy or assessment of monies may be made for any other maintenance or allowance to or for any of the poor of the respective parishes, in the said city of Norwich and county of the same, which sums of money so set down and ascertained, and the proportion, part, and share that each parish, &c. in the said city and county shall from time to time raise and pay, the said governor, deputy-governor, assistants, and guardians, shall under their common seal certify unto the mayor and justices of the peace of and for the said city and county, which said mayor and justices, or any two of them may, grant and issue out their warrant under their hands and seals, thereby to authorise and require the church-wardens and overseers of the poor, or such person or persons as the said guardians shall appoint out of every respective parish, &c. in the said city and county, to rate and assess the said sums of money on the respective inhabitants, and

and on every parson and vicar, and on all and every the occupiers of lands, houses, tenements, tithes impropriate, appropriation of titles, and on all persons having and using stocks and personal estates in the said respective parishes, &c. or having money out at interest, in equal proportion as near as may be, according to their several and respective values and estates; and the monies so rated and assessed to demand, gather, and receive, and for non-payment thereof, being first lawfully demanded, or within twenty days after such demand, to levy the same by distress and sale of the goods of such person and persons who are so assessed and rated, or ought to pay the same sums, and if no distress can be found, then it shall be lawful to and for the said mayor and justices of the peace, or any two of them to commit such person so rated, or assessed, and offending, to prison, there to remain without bail or mainprize till the same shall be paid with reasonable charges.

Provided always, that if any person or persons, parish, precinct, or place, shall find him, her, or themselves, to be unequally assessed, he, she, or they, or such parish, precinct, or place, may appeal to the justices of the peace of the city and county aforesaid, at the general quarter sessions of the peace, next after such assessment, who shall have full power and authority to make such redress and order therein, as to them shall seem reasonable.

And in case the said mayor and justices of the peace shall refuse or neglect, by the space of five days next after such certificate be delivered unto the
said

saïd mayor, or justices to grant and issue out warrants under their hands and seals, unto the church-wardens or overseers of the poor, or such persons as the guardians shall appoint, to rate and assess in every respective parish, &c. sums of money charged to be raised, and to demand, and levy such sums of money, or to commit the persons to prison for non-payment thereof, that then it shall be lawful for the saïd governor or deputy-governor, and assistants, or any three or more of them, whereof the governor or deputy-governor to be one, to issue out their warrant or warrants under their hands and seals unto the saïd church-wardens, overseers of the poor, or such persons as the guardians shall appoint, to rate and assess in every respective parish, &c. such sums of money charged to be raised by them, and to demand and levy the same by distress and sale of goods, as aforesaid; and for want of distress to commit such persons, who ought to pay the same, to prison, there to remain without bail or mainprize till the same shall be paid with charges: and in case they shall neglect, or refuse so to do, then every person so offending shall forfeit and lose the sum of forty shillings for every such offence.

And if any person charitably disposed, shall give fifty pounds, or more towards carrying on the saïd work, it shall be lawful for the saïd corporation, at a court of thirty three of the saïd guardians at the least, to elect and constitute such person to be one of the saïd guardians of the poor of the saïd

city and county, over and above the said number of thirty two persons to be chosen in the said wards, as aforesaid.

And the said corporation shall have the care, and provide for the maintenance of all the poor of the said city and county, which are or ought to be by law relieved and provided for by their respective parishes there, except such as shall be otherwise sufficiently provided for by the charitable gifts of other persons, or in hospitals, or alms-houses within the said city : and shall have full power to examine, search, and see what poor persons there are come into, inhabiting, or residing within the said city and county ; and it shall be lawful to and for the said governor, deputy-governor, and assistants, or any three of them, whereof the said governor, or deputy-governor to be one, by warrant under their hands and seals to be directed to the constables of or in the said city and county, or to such person or persons as shall be appointed by the guardians, to apprehend any rogues, vagrants or sturdy beggars, or idle, lazy, or disorderly persons, within the said city and county, and to cause them to be conveyed, kept and set to work in the said work-houses, hospitals, or houses of correction, for any time not exceeding three years ; and every constable, &c. neglecting or refusing to execute such warrant, shall forfeit ten shillings.

Provided always, that this act, shall not any ways extend to give the said corporation any power or authority over any alms-house or hospital, or any other

other charitable gift or usage within the said city and county, already given, used or erected, or to be at any time hereafter given, used or erected.

And the said court shall have power to choose a clerk, and all such other officers and servants, as shall be needful to be employed in and about the premisses, and to make and give such reasonable allowances, salaries or wages to them or any of them, out of the stock or revenues belonging to the said corporation or hospitals, as they shall think fit.

And the treasurer, and all other officers belonging to the said corporation, their executors or administrators, shall, from time to time, before such person or persons as the said corporation shall appoint, account and reckon for such monies, stock, and other things belonging to the said corporation, as shall come to his or their hands, or to the hands of their respective testator or intestate, or be under his or their respective care, upon every reasonable warning or notice thereof by the corporation, or by the governor or deputy-governor, to them respectively to be given; and on his or their refusal, or neglect to account, shall and may be by the mayor, or any two of the aldermen, being justices of the peace, committed to the gaol for the said city and county, there to remain without bail or mainprize, until he, she, or they shall become conformable and pass a true account as aforesaid; and if upon any such account there shall appear any thing to be in his, her, or their hands belonging to the said corporation, he, she, or they shall pay and deliver the same, as the

saïd corporation shall approve of, on pain to forfeit double the value thereof, to be recovered by action of debt, bill, plaint, or information, together with costs of suit, in which no protection, essoin, wager of law, or any more than one imparlance shall be admitted or allowed; and payment of such sum or sums of money by any executor or administrator, shall be allowed to them against all other debts by judgment obtained of or against their respective testator or intestate, or of any other debts by bond, specialty, or otherwise.

And from and after the first day of May now next ensuing, no poor child or children inhabiting out of the saïd city and county, and who do not legally belong to the same, shall be bound or taken as apprentice or apprentices to, or by any journeyman-weaver, of the inhabitants of the saïd city and county, without the licence and consent of the governor or deputy governor of the saïd corporation, and two or more of the assistants; the indentures of such apprentices to be inrolled by the clerk of the saïd corporation; and that no master-weaver inhabiting in the saïd city and county, shall have more than two apprentices or week-boys together at any one time, without the licence and consent of the governor or deputy-governor of the saïd corporation, and two or more of the assistants; and in case any such poor child shall be bound, or taken as an apprentice by any indenture, or covenant, to or by any inhabitant of the saïd city and county, or liberties thereof, contrary to the true meaning here-
of

of; all such indentures, covenants, and contracts, shall be, and are hereby declared absolutely null and void: and the mayor and justices of the peace of the said city and county, or any two of them shall have full power and authority, by any warrant or order under their hands and seals, to remove and convey all such apprentices, or poor children, to the several and respective parishes, or places where they were last legally settled before their being so bound apprentices, and to cause them to be delivered to the church-wardens, or overseers, or head officers of such towns or parishes, who are hereby enjoined and required to receive, take, and provide for them accordingly; such officers to have, nevertheless a power of appealing to the next general quarter sessions.

No person to be chosen a guardian unless he be rated twelve pence a week, at least, towards the relief of the poor, or dwell in a tenement of the yearly value of ten pounds, or unless such person so elected guardian, shall give and pay the sum of fifty pounds, to, and for the use and benefit of the said corporation.

In case the said mayor or his deputy, shall neglect or refuse to call or hold a court, for the election or removal of any guardian or guardians, officer or officers, for the space of fourteen days after it shall be demanded by the said guardians, or the major part of them; then the said guardians, or the major part of them, are hereby required and impowered to call and hold the said court, and to do all things as if the said court had been held and called by the said mayor.

And

And it shall be lawful for the mayor, sheriffs, citizens and commonalty of the said city of Norwich, in common-council assembled, by any deed or deeds, writing or writings under their common seal, to grant, convey, and assure, for so long time as they shall think fit to any person or persons whatsoever, all that parcel of land, or any part thereof, called or known by the name of the town close, lying and being within the county of the said city of Norwich, as a security for any sum or sums of money that they shall think fit, at any time or times, to borrow or take up, for and towards the charge and expense in erecting the said work-houses, and setting to work the poor of the said city and county of Norwich.

Nothing in this act contained shall extend to the limits of the palace of the bishop of Norwich, or any of the precincts of the cathedral church of Norwich.

And all penalties and forfeitures by this act appointed, shall be levied by distress and sale of the offenders goods, by warrant under the hands and seals of two justices of peace of the said city of Norwich, restoring to the offenders the overplus, if any there be.

And if any person or persons shall be sued, for any matter or thing, which he, or they shall do in execution of this act, such defendant or defendants, may plead the general issue to every such action or suit, and may give this act and the special matter in evidence; and if the verdict shall pass for such
defendant

defendant or defendants, or the plaintiff or plaintiffs be nonsuited, or discontinue his, her, or their suit, or if judgment shall be given against him, her, or them, upon demurrer or otherwise, then such defendant or defendants shall have and recover his or their treble costs; and this act shall be taken and allowed, in all publick courts within the kingdom of Great-Britain, as a publick act; and all judges and justices are to take notice thereof, without specially pleading the same.

Nothing in this act shall extend to charge the members of the Walloon, or French and Dutch congregations in the said city of Norwich, and county of the same, with any payment for, or towards the maintenance or relief of the poor, of any parish in the said city and county of the city of Norwich, other than, and except to the poor of the respective parishes where they respectively dwell; and that for, and in respect only of the house or houses, and ground they dwell in, and occupy in such respective parishes.

Provided that the said members of the Walloon, or French and Dutch congregations, do provide for and maintain the poor of their own respective congregations, so that such poor do not, or shall not be, or become chargeable to the respective parishes where they dwell in the said city and county."

In 1713, on the eleventh day of May, peace was proclaimed between Great Britain and France. In the same year the duke of Ormond was appointed lord lieutenant of Norfolk and Norwich, in the room of lord Townshend.

On

On the eighth day of March peace was proclaimed with Spain.

In 1715, on the seventeenth day of December, the first of George I. Mr. Thomas Hall, late of London, merchant, son of John Hall, esquire, formerly mayor of this city, and lieutenant colonel of the militia regiment, was interred in the church of St. George at Colgate. The body was preceeded by thirty four boys, clothed at the expence of his executors, being the number of the years of his age, and by the greater part of the city clergy; the pall was supported by fix batchelors, and the artillery company in black cloaks, with white gloves and silk knots, closed the proceffion. He left the interest of two hundred pounds yearly, for a monthly sacramental lecture to be preached in some of the churches of this city*; to Bethel hospital two hundred pounds, to the charity schools, in the city of Norwich, of the established church, 50l. and the like sum to those of the protestant dissenters; and 100l. for the purchasing of a gold chain to be worn by the mayors successively, which weighs 23 ounces 6 pennyweights. Mr. Augustine Metcalf was the first mayor who wore it. In January following died Sir Peter Seaman, knight, who made provision, by his will, for the binding out two poor lads yearly for ever out of the severall parishes of East Wymer ward, of which he was alderman, by rotation; the first to be taken out of the parish of St. Gregory, where he was buried.

In

* They are now preached in the following churches, St. Peter of Mancroft, St. Andrew, St. John of Timberhill and St. George at Colgate alternately.

In 1717 died two mayors. *

In 1720, on the 20th of September, a dangerous riot happened, under pretence of destroying callicoes, which arose to such an height as to oblige the sheriffs to call in the aid of the artillery company, at whose approach, the rabble instantly dispersed themselves.

In 1722, an act passed, for the better qualifying the manufacturers of stuffs and yarn, in the city of Norwich, to bear offices of magistracy, in the said city, and for regulating the elections of such officers; which took place on Midsummer-day, 1723, and by which, all manufacturers, or makers of any sort of stuffs made of wool, or wherein there is any mixture of wool; and all makers of wool into yarn, who are not journeymen or servants for hire, master weavers, and master wool-combers, and persons dealing or trading as such, or employing servants or journeymen in any such manufactures, or having any interest, stock, share, or partnership in any such manufactures, inhabiting, or living within the said city of Norwich, or county of the same, are obliged to be made free of the said city, and admitted freemen thereof. All persons then in trade to be admitted to their freedom, on their requesting the same, and paying the sum of one and twenty shillings, on, or before June 24, one thousand seven hundred and twenty three; and all future manufacturers, being foreigners, on payment of any sum, not exceeding 5l. and taking the usual oaths. Every per-

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* Richard Lubbock, July 26. and Thomas Bubbin, October 30. on whose death Anth. Parmenter was elected.

son exercising any of the said manufactures, and refusing to take up his freedom as aforesaid, upon a prosecution, to be commenced within six months after such fact committed, shall forfeit 10 l. for every kalendar month he shall use the said manufactures, contrary to this act.

It was also enacted, that if any person elected to be sheriff, at any court of mayoralty, between the 24th of June and 10th of August following, shall within fourteen days after notice in writing given to him of such election, make oath, or, being a quaker, solemnly affirm, that he is not at that time worth 2000 l. his debts being paid, every such person shall, for that turn, be excused serving the said office of sheriff gratis; and each person, in like manner, swearing himself not worth 3000 l. shall be excused serving the office, on paying a fine of 50 l. and no greater fine to be paid by any person of a larger estate. But no person worth above 2000 l. shall be discharged from serving the said office for more than one year, without the consent of the mayor, sheriffs, citizens, and commonalty, in common council assembled.

At every future election of mayor, sheriff, alderman, or common-council-man, the mayor, or presiding officer, in case a poll be demanded, by any of the candidates, or three or more of the electors, shall appoint a convenient number of clerks, who shall be sworn to take the polls indifferently, and to set down the name of each voter, with his addition, and place of abode, and for whom he shall poll; and shall not admit any one to poll, unless
he

he first swears (or, being a quaker, affirms) that he is a freeman of the city of Norwich; and in case of an election of an alderman, or common-councilman, that he is an inhabitant of the ward, for which such election is made, and that he hath not before polled at that election. On closing the polls, the number of the voters is to be publickly proclaimed, and if a scrutiny be demanded, by any three, or more of the electors, within twenty four hours after closing the polls, or proclamation of the numbers, such scrutiny shall be proceeded in, by the mayor, or presiding officer, who within seven days after demand thereof, shall deliver to the persons requiring such scrutiny, under the penalty of 500 l. a true copy of the polls, they paying for the same after the rate of 6d for the names and additions of 20 voters; and such scrutiny shall begin within twelve days, and not in less than ten days, after closing the poll, and shall be publickly proceeded upon, at the place of election, without any unnecessary delay: and it is further enacted, that after the twenty-fifth of March, one thousand seven hundred and twenty three, upon the death or removal of any alderman, the mayor, or his deputy, shall within five days at the longest, and not sooner than two days after such death or removal, (and the said mayor or deputy have notice thereof) proceed to elect a new alderman, giving twenty four hours notice of such election to the freemen of the ward. This is to be taken as a public act, but in no wise to extend to the palace of the bishop, or the precinct of the cathedral.

In the same session, an act passed for clearing, depthning, repairing, extending, maintaining and improving the haven and piers of Great Yarmouth, and for depthning and making more navigable the several rivers emptying themselves at the said town; and also for preserving ships wintering in the said haven, from accidents by fire. For which purposes the following duties were to be paid for twenty one years, and to the end of the then next session of parliament, computing from Lady day, one thousand seven hundred and twenty three, for all goods unladen within the haven of Yarmouth, or in the sea called Yarmouth roads, extending from the south part of Scratby town in Norfolk, to the north part of Corton in Suffolk, viz. for every chalder of coals Winchester measure, last of wheat, rye, barley, malt or other grain, weigh of salt, and for every ton of other goods or merchandize whatever (fish excepted) such sums of money, not exceeding twelve pence, as the mayor, burgessees, and commonalty of Great Yarmouth, in common council shall appoint, to be divided in the following proportions; sixpence to the town of Yarmouth, for clearing and improving their haven, piers and jetties; three halfpence, to the chamberlain of Norwich, to be applied in clearing and depthning the channel of the river Yare, between the New mills and Hardley crosse; one halfpenny, to persons yearly named by the quarter sessions at the castle at Norwich, for depthning and clearing the north river; one halfpenny to persons yearly named at the quarter sessions at Beccles, for clearing

clearing and depthning the river Waveny ; one half-penny, towards repairing the bridge and public keys at Yarmouth, and the other three pence, to be applied for clearing and depthning the channel of the river Yare, called Braydon, in such a manner as shall be ordered by a majority of the commissioners at their meeting at Yarmouth; and the overplus (if any be) to such other uses as the said majority shall think convenient; which last three pence is not to be raised, but upon notice signed by seven of the commissioners at their meeting at Yarmouth, and acquainting the mayor thereof, that it is necessary to raise it, and for what purposes. The justices of Norfolk may apply part of their proportion in depthning that branch of the river Bure, leading from St. Benet's abbey to Dilham. The corporation of Yarmouth to nominate collectors and receivers, who are to pay the money into the chamberlain's hand. There are twelve commissioners to have the inspection, and take account of the money, &c. (except the three-pence paid to Norwich, Norfolk, Suffolk and Yarmouth as aforesaid) three to be nominated yearly by the corporation of Yarmouth in common council assembled, three by the corporation of Norwich, in like manner, three by the justices of Norfolk at the Christmas quarter sessions, and three by the justices of Suffolk; which commissioners, or any number of them, five being of Norfolk, Suffolk, and Norwich may act. The mayor of Yarmouth, or his deputy, is to swear the collectors and receivers, who are to be allowed any sum, not exceeding sixpence in the pound

pound. The commissioners are to meet at Yarmouth every year, on, or before, the twentieth of May any two of those for Norwich, or the counties, giving the mayor of Yarmouth, or his deputy fourteen days notice of such meeting : and if there be not present five commissioners for the city and counties, in such case the mayor, burgessees, &c. of Yarmouth in common council assembled, may execute the powers given by the act. All goods exported out of Yarmouth haven, to have the custom paid by this act allowed again. Watchers to be appointed on the quay to take care of fire in ships, &c. from the first of Nov. to the first of March, and every ship lying one month in the harbour between those said days, are to pay one penny a ton towards the expenses thereof, and to forfeit ten shillings for each fire or candle seen in any ship laid up to winter in the haven, and the watchers are impowered to enter and extinguish them ; such ships as have custom-house officers on board, only excepted. The city of Norwich may assign over their part of the tonnage by indenture under their common seal, as a security for money borrowed by them, for the purposes of the act, and so may the justices of Norfolk, or the major part of them, at any quarter sessions. This act to be deemed a public one.

In 1724, the statue of justice was placed on the hall in the market place, and the sheriffs office rebuilt.

On Monday October the 24th one thousand seven hundred and twenty five, the new hall was opened as an exchange, to be used for that purpose

purpose, from eleven to one every day, Saturdays and Sundays excepted.

The same year an act passed, which took place the first of May, one thousand seven hundred and twenty six, by which the following tolls or duties were laid upon all goods or merchandise brought up the river, higher then Thorpe hall, in Thorpe, viz. on every chalder of coals, last of wheat, rye, barley, malt, or other grain; every weigh of salt; every three hogheads of sugar, tobacco, molasses, or hogheads packed with dry goods; every three puncheons of liquor; every four hogheads, or two pipes of wine, spirits or other liquors; every eight barrels of soap, raisins, oil, pitch, tar, or packed with other dry goods; every butt of currants; every two pipes of Smyrna raisins; every twenty four bags of nails; every sixty barrs of iron; every fifty pieces of iron called short broads; every eight pigs, or fodder of lead; every Peak millstone, or pair of Clogne millstones; every forty firkins of butter, or archel; every twenty two hundred of cheese; every twenty square feet of stone; every thousand pantiles; every chalder of grinstone; every eighty single, or forty double dales; every fifty square feet of timber; every two bags of hops; every eight horse-packs of any sort of goods; and every ton of all other kinds of goods, the sum of fourpence. The mayor, sheriffs, &c. are to appoint collectors, and the duties to be applied towards rebuilding and repairing the walls and bridges, gates, waistes, flathes, &c. Every one giving a false account of his lading, to the amount of more than three tons, to forfeit twenty shillings. An
office

office to be erected between Thorpe hall and St. Ann's stathe, for receiving the said duties; and attendance given there, from five in the morning, until eight at night; from the tenth of March, to the tenth of September; and from seven in the morning, 'till five in the afternoon, during the rest of the year. The city under their common seal may borrow money, and assign over the said customs for repayment, with legal interest. This act is not to lessen or take away any duties, which were before payable to the mayor &c. at their common, or other stathes in the city: the city to pay yearly to the treasurer of the county of Norfolk, thirty pounds towards repairing, amending and rebuilding Trowse, Herford, Cringleford and Earlham bridges, which bridges are therefore deemed to belong to the county of Norfolk, in the same manner as the other public county bridges do. This act to be taken as a public act in all courts, without specially pleading the same.

In 1726, Berstreetgate and Brazen-doors were rebuilt.

In 1727, the fish-market was new paved, and the stalls erected.

In 1729, the third of George the second, an act passed for the better regulating elections in the city of Norwich, which took place April the twenty fifth, one thousand seven hundred and thirty; by which it was enacted, that at every election for burgeses in parliament, each voter must swear, that he hath been admitted to his freedom, twelve calendar

calendar months before that election, and that he hath not been polled before at that election. And in all elections for mayor or sheriff, each person shall swear, that he hath not only been a freeman as aforesaid, but that for six calendar months last past, he hath been an inhabitant within the liberties of the city. And in elections for aldermen or common-council-men, each man shall swear, that for six kalendar months last past, he hath been an inhabitant within the ward for which the election is made. And all persons in work-houses, hospitals or prisons, are to poll in that ward in which they inhabited the last six kalendar months before their entering such places. And if any one refuse to take the usual oaths, to be administered by the mayor, his deputy or such sworn clerks as he or his deputy shall appoint, then such persons vote is to be rejected. In all elections a check and sworn clerk, shall be admitted to the common gaol to take the votes of those confined there; and the sheriffs or gaoler are to admit them for that purpose under the penalty of fifty pounds. And at all elections, every person, if required by any one of the checks at any poll, must first take the oaths appointed by the act of 1 George I. or his vote to be disallowed; and the presiding officer or sworn clerks refusing to administer such oaths, shall forfeit fifty pounds, besides costs of suit. And if any person take the oaths appointed by that act, wilfully, falsely, and corruptly, on conviction thereof by information, or indictment, such person shall incur all the penalties,

ties, which persons convicted of wilful and corrupt perjury are liable to, by common law. No more than three common-council men for each great ward are to be yearly elected by the freemen, upon the days appointed by the charters; and the three so elected for each great ward, or the major part of them, shall within forty eight hours after their election, or within six days after any scrutiny demanded shall be finished, upon notice thereof from the mayor, or his deputy, elect and fill up the remaining number of common-council men, directed to be elected by the charters, for each great ward, under 50*l.* penalty; and all such so named shall be as effectually common-council-men, as if elected by all the freemen: and if any person, elected by the common-council as aforesaid, shall refuse to serve, or chance to die, the three common-council men entered in the assembly-book for that ward where such vacancy happens, shall in forty-eight hours after notice from the mayor, &c. fill up such vacancy. The mayor, or his deputy, or in case of the mayor's death, the surviving justice of the peace who last served the office of mayor, shall preside at every election of mayor, sheriffs, aldermen, or common-council men, and at such scrutinies as shall be demanded thereupon. No person shall be subject to be elected into the office of sheriff of the city of Norwich, who is not an inhabitant thereof at the time of such election. No act, order, or ordinance whatsoever, from and after the 25th of April, 1730, shall be made or passed in the assembly

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bly of the representative body of the said city, without the assent of the mayor, sheriffs, and aldermen then present, or the major part of them; nor without the assent of the commons then assembled, or the major part of them. The mayor elect, and the mayor for the time being, may nominate and appoint, for the time of his mayoralty, a sword bearer, two ward officers, and such other inferior officers, as hath been customary for them to nominate and elect. The mayor shall summon the sheriffs, aldermen, and common-council men to meet at the quarterly assemblies, according to custom; and each person absenting himself shall forfeit five shillings; and every one who shall depart from any assembly, without consent of the mayor, shall forfeit ten shillings; to be paid to the chamberlain of the city, over and above such prosecutions, as they may, in either case, be subject to by law. All penalties (except the aforesaid ones of five shillings, and ten shillings) shall be recovered by action of debt, in any of his majesty's courts of record at Westminster, in the name of the chamberlain; and when recovered be applied for the benefit of the city: but the penalties of five shillings, and ten shillings, may be recovered by distress and sale of the offenders goods.

In 1730, the right honourable lord Lynn, lord lieutenant of Norfolk and Norwich, sent commissions for the officers of the artillery company; of which Timothy Balderstone, esquire, was appointed captain.

In 1731, the market was new paved.

At the quarterly assembly held this year on St. Matthias's day, one hundred and sixty one freemen were admitted and sworn; and at the same time it was reported by the committee, appointed for that purpose, that they had treated with St. George's company, who had agreed to resign up their books, charters and records, into the hands of the city; which was accordingly done, and that company's usurped power put a final stop to. In consequence hereof, the following procession was settled for the guild day, instead of that formerly used by the said company. At nine in the morning the sheriffs, justices and aldermen are to attend the new elect, at his house, and with him wait on the mayor, and and go thence to the guild hall, where the common council are to be ready in their black gowns, whence they are to proceed to the cathedral in the following order: two trumpeters, a standard bearer, two blue coat officers with staves, the common council men elected for the four great wards, two abreast, the speaker of the commons alone, a standard, the city music, the city officers, the mayor and mayor elect, the recorder and steward, the justices, sheriffs, and aldermen, in their usual habits; the whole to be closed by four sheriffs officers: after divine service they are to proceed from the cathedral in like manner, (the orator and speech boys following the court) to the guild hall; and after the mayor be there sworn, they are to go, in manner aforesaid, to the new hall, where before dinner, if there be time, the orator and speech boys are each to make their

their speech : and after the feast, the justices, sheriffs, aldermen, and common council men, (following then the aldermen) are first to attend the new mayor, and afterward the old mayor, to their respective houses.

It was further ordered, that, for the future, every mayor be excused making a guild breakfast, or holding any mayor's feasts in May or August; and that in lieu thereof, the new mayor make a feast, on the day on which he is sworn at the new hall, and there entertain the recorder, steward, sheriffs, justices, aldermen, and their ladies, and the common council men; and every mayor who makes such a feast, or in case of his death, his executors or administrators shall be intitled to the sum of one hundred pounds, to be paid by the chamberlain, immediately after making the said feast; and that the further sum of fifty pounds be paid to such person, as shall be mayor on Christmas day, next ensuing, the said feast.

This year the sum of four hundred and eighty seven pounds, five shillings, and four pence, was collected in the city, for the sufferers by fire, at Blandford, Tiverton, and Ramsey.

In 1732, Sherer's commonly called Charing cross, † a neat, antient, stone pillar was taken down, and in the same year the Market cross underwent the same fate.

A new

† Thus denominated from the sheermen or cloth-cutters, who principally dwelt in this part of the city. The corner house in the reign of Edward II. belonged to Christopher Sherehill, or at Sherer's hill.

A new silk damask gown was bought by the corporation, to be worn by the speaker of the commons, on all publick occasions.

In 1733, July the 11th, the right honourable Sir Robert Walpole, was in person, sworn a freeman of this corporation, and presented by the mayor, with a copy of his freedom, in a gold box.

Tombland was paved, and the front of St. Stephen's gate beautified.

In 1734, Sir Robert Walpole presented the city with a gilt mace, beautifully enchafed, weighing one hundred, and sixty eight ounces; on the cup part are Sir Robert's arms and those of the city.

On the 31st of December was the greatest flood that has happened since 1696.

In 1736, Hog-hill was paved.

In 1737, October 4, a great part of the city was flooded.

In 1738, the ditches on the south part of the castle hill were levelled, and ever since the cattle market has been kept there.

In 1739, on the 30th of October, being the king's birth-day, war was proclaimed against Spain. The two sheriffs appeared, for the first time, at this solemnity with their gold chains, given by Mr. Tho. Emerson of London, a native of this city, to be worn by the sheriffs of Norwich for the time being. They cost 100 guineas each.

The winter proved remarkably severe; a deep snow fell about Christmas, and remained upon the ground

ground 'till March; when, on the breaking up of the frost, a prodigious flood ensued. The cold was more intense than in the winters of 1708 and 1715, and continued so long, that had not the distresses of the poor been generously relieved by the inhabitants, numbers must have perished. The season held so sharp, that on the 5th of May, 1740, a snow fell, which at ten in the morning hung on the cathedral spire, from its top to the second window.

On account of the great scarcity and dearth of provisions, riots were very frequent in several parts of the kingdom, and in most of the principal towns of the county of Norfolk. The magistrates of this city were obliged to call in the military power to their aid; and six or seven lives were lost before the rioters could be quelled.

At an assembly held on the third day of May, 1741, it was ordered, that no person for the future, being a foreigner, be permitted to exercise any trade in the city for longer time than six months, without taking up his freedom.

On the eleventh day of April, 1744, war was declared against France.

In September, 1745, an association was entered into by the magistrates and principal inhabitants of this city, in support of his majesty's government, and in defence of the civil and religious liberties of his subjects. About the same time the artillery company was raised, under the command of the right honourable the lord Hobart, lord lieutenant of Norfolk and Norwich. They made their first appearance

pearance under arms, on the twentieth day of January, being the birth day of his royal highness Frederick prince of Wales; and performed every part of their exercise, with great exactness and regularity.

About one o'clock in the afternoon, on the thirtieth day of September, 1746, a sudden and terrible fire broke out in the shire house, on the castle hill, which in a few hours entirely consumed the whole building.

On Thursday the ninth day of October, being the day appointed as a general thanksgiving for our happy deliverance from the late horrid and unnatural rebellion, the same was observed here with all demonstrations of joy and loyalty; in the market place a magnificent triumphal arch was erected in honour of our illustrious deliverer William duke of Cumberland, which, with the whole city, was splendidly illuminated in the evening.

In the year 1747, an act passed for holding the summer assizes, and sessions of the peace, for the county of Norfolk, in the city and county of Norwich, untill a new shire house could be built for the said county of Norfolk; and for building a new shire house on the castle hill in the same county, the expense of which to be raised by a general rate on the county of Norfolk.

By an act passed the twenty third of George the second, for repairing, improving and maintaining, the haven and pier of Great Yarmouth; and for deepthening, and making more navigable, the several

veral rivers emptying themselves into the said haven; and also for preserving ships, wintering therein, from accidents by fire; it was enacted, that from the twenty fifth day of March, 1750, there shall be paid for twenty one years, and to the end of the next session, by every master of a ship, which shall unlade within the haven, or in Yarmouth road, from the south part of Scratby, to the north part of Corton, for every chalder of coals, last of wheat, or other grain, and weigh of salt, and for every ton of other goods, (fish excepted) viz. for seven years, one shilling and six pence; and for the remainder of the twenty one years, &c. ten pence; or such greater sum, as the commissioners shall order, not exceeding twelve pence. Collectors to pay over the money to the chamberlain. Salary allowed them of six pence in the pound. The corporation to be answerable for all monies received; and impowered to call the collectors and chamberlains to account; and to levy the same by distress and sale; and where no distress can be had, to commit the party. Twelve commissioners to be nominated annually; three by the corporation of Yarmouth, three by the corporation of Norwich, three by the justices of Norfolk, and three by the justices of Suffolk. Proportion in which the duties are to be applied, as follows. Three halfpence towards the cleansing the river Yare, &c. and the expense of a commission of sewers. One halfpenny towards cleansing the north river, &c. One halfpenny towards clearing the river Waveny, &c. One halfpenny towards repairing the bridge and public

lic keys. Other three pence in the following proportions. One halfpenny towards clearing the river Bure. Two pence half penny towards clearing the river Yare. The last mentioned three pence not to be raised unless necessary, and notice be given by the commissioners to the mayor. Four pence to be applied for seven years, in clearing the haven, &c. but if the said sum shall not be sufficient, the commissioners are impowered to order a further part of the residue of the duties to be applied for the same purpose; but not to be applied in erecting new works. Eight pence to be applied for seven years, in extending the haven, and erecting new works. Commissioners to appoint a committee of twelve inhabitants, who are to inspect the works, &c. The duty of eight pence to cease upon certificate of the works being compleated. Upon determination of the duty of eight pence, four pence is to be applied towards clearing the haven, &c. If the said four pence be not found sufficient, the commissioners are to direct a further sum of two pence to be raised. If the commissioners shall not audit the accounts yearly, the corporation is empowered to examine the same. No ship to be cleared at the custom house 'till the duties be paid. Fish, oil, &c. exempted from payment. On re-exportation of goods the duties to be repaid. Penalty on throwing ballast, &c. into the haven. The mayor to appoint a nightly watch. Vessels wintering to pay one halfpenny per ton, towards the watch. Penalty of ten shillings on suffering fire or lighted candle in ships wintering in the haven. The watch is im-

impowered to go on board to extinguish lights. No vessel to be moored with her side towards the key for longer than one tide.

Early on Tuesday morning, October the 22d, one thousand seven hundred and fifty one, a fire broke out at a warehouse in Bridewell alley, which proved the most terrible and destructive, that had been known in this city for many years: it raged for near six hours, before it could be got under, notwithstanding the unwearied efforts of the inhabitants, who remarkably exposed themselves in endeavouring to stop its fury: the flames in a short time extended themselves to the city Bridewell, which, with several houses thereto adjoining, was entirely consumed. At the time of the fire, there was a man of about forty years of age, confined in Bridewell, who had been taken up as a stroller about two months before; he had a remarkable wildness in his look, and a very long beard; and what is most astonishing, he was so far from endeavouring an escape, although the whole building was in flames, that it required force to remove him. On any question being asked, he would answer by a confused inarticulate noise, nor could it ever be made out from whence he came, 'till the following advertisement appeared in the London Evening Post; in consequence of which he was removed, as therein directed.

‘ Lost or strayed away, from Broadway in the
‘ parish of Northchurch, near Berkhamstead in the
‘ county of Hertford, about three months ago,
‘ Peter the Wild Youth, a black hairy man, about

‘ five feet eight inches high ; he cannot speak to be
 ‘ understood, but makes a kind of humming noise,
 ‘ and answers in that manner, to the name of Peter.
 ‘ Whoever will bring him to Mr. Thomas Fenns, at
 ‘ the place abovesaid, shall receive all reasonable
 ‘ charges, and a handsome gratuity.*

In

* Extract from a pamphlet relative to Peter the Wild Youth, published in 1726.—’Tis undeniable, that about Christmas, 1725, there was found in the woods of Hamelin, (a town in Germany) twenty eight miles from Hanover, a creature of human kind, naked and wild, being a boy about twelve or thirteen years old. When he was first discovered, he was so wild and savage, as to shun all human kind, and could climb up the trees with an agility scarce to be conceived ; but how he could subsist in those woods, & be wild, (as he really was) the most probable account that can be thought of, is, as follows. About twelve or thirteen years ago, ’tis well known there were in Germany, a set of people, who during the whole summer, were pretty much in those woods of Hamelin ; one of whose infants might probably be so laid aside in those vast woods, as to be quite lost by its mother, and so left to be nourished by some living savage creature. And it is not im-

probable, that some she bear, deprived of her cubs, finding this infant, and being full of a suckling, nursing, tender temper, laid herself down to, and suckled it. And it is well known to those persons, who keep bears tame, that they are very fond of the human kind, where they naturally take. It may be reasonably supposed, that this creature having thus taken to it, nourished it, ’till it could shift for itself ; by which time, being inured to cold and hardship, it also contracted a facility of eating what food the woods afforded. He is now brought over into England, and by the king’s order delivered to proper persons to learn him to speak. His being dumb is no wonder, because all children would be so, were they never to hear any one speak. He is straight and upright, not hairy, has a bushy head of dark-brown hair is of a merry disposition, has very strong teeth, graceful comely features, and a very roving look with his eyes. He has all the passions of the mind.

In the twenty fifth of George the second, an act passed, extremely beneficial to the trade of this city, to open the port of Great Yarmouth, for the importation of wool, and woollen yarn from Ireland: by which it is enacted, that from and after the first day of May, 1752, it shall and may be lawful for any person or persons, to import into the port of Great Yarmouth, in the county of Norfolk, any wool, woollen or bay yarn, wool fells, shortlings, mortlings, wool flocks, and worsted yarn from Ireland. Provided always, &c. that all such importations of wool, and woollen or bay yarn, &c. from

mind like us, and is afraid of his tutor, who keeps him in awe, by striking his legs with a leather strap. He is very much for putting his hands into any ones pockets, and if he finds nuts or fruit, is extremely rejoiced. He now eats the same food as we do, but seems most fond of vegetables. He has a natural tendency to run away, if not held by his coat, which is of a forest green, faced with red. He now takes tolerably well to being clothed, tho' at first it was very awkward to him. Whether he will be brought to speak, so soon as was expected, is a question; the pronounciation of letters proving very difficult to him. Yet he can pronounce after his tutor words of one syllable, such as pray, how, do, and the like. What he has hitherto learned is by rote, as any dumb creature is

taught to fetch and carry; so at his coming towards persons, his tutor, who calls him Peter, bids him make a bow, upon which he kisses his finger, and makes one very readily: he now goes upright, which is attributed in great measure to his cloaths, which render crawling more troublesome than walking. The king was pleased to have him at his own table, to see how he would eat, and behave himself; where he greedily snatched out of the dishes what he liked best, such as asparagus, or other garden things: but after a little time he was ordered to be taken away by reason of his daubing, indecent behaviour. He readily sets himself down before any one, without distinction of persons; in which posture he was at first discovered, sitting in a hollow tree, cracking nuts.

from Ireland into the said port of Great Yarmouth, shall be made, from such ports only,* and under the same restrictions and regulations in all respects, as wool, or woollen yarn, is now by law permitted to be imported into the several ports of Biddeford, Barnstable, Minehead, Bridgewater, Bristol, Milford Haven, Chester, and Liverpoole, or any of them.

In July, 1752, a parochial list was taken of the number of houses and inhabitants within the city of Norwich, precinct of the close, and the hamlets, or suburbs, belonging to the said city, as followeth. By comparing of which with the account of the inhabitants, taken in 1693, inserted in the third column, we shall see how greatly the number of the people has been increased, in the course of sixty years, owing to the prodigious extension of its trade during that period.

	No. of Houses.	No. of Souls.	No. Souls in 1693.
St. Peter Southgate - -	72	425	470
St. Etheldred - - -	57	247	243
St. Julian - - -	126	595	563
St. Peter Permouthergate	327	1408	1376
St. John Sepulchre - -	158	1004	781
St. Michael at Thorn -	273	1127	865
St. John Timber-hill -	200	890	668
All Saints - - -	106	578	425
St. Stephen - - -	402	2314	1769
St. Peter Mancroft - -	420	2288	1953
St. Giles - - -	195	961	910
St. Benedict - - -	127	715	652
			St.

* The ports in Ireland from whence wool, &c. are allowed to be exported, are Dublin, Waterford, Youghall, Kinsale, Cork, and Drogheda.

	No. of Houfes.	No. of Souls.	No. Souls in 1693.
St. Swithin - - -	141	751	496
St. Margaret - - -	223	856	664
St. Lawrence - - -	176	952	668
St. Gregory - - -	248	1002	772
St. John Maddermarket -	135	1107	657
St. Andrew - - -	236	1334	935
St. Michael at Plea - -	113	482	479
St. Peter Hungate - -	90	341	267
St. Simon and Jude - -	84	420	362
St. George of Tomblaud	161	737	722
St. Martin at Palace - -	167	1083	819
St. Helen - - -	80	386	338
St. Michael Cofflan - -	244	1046	1026
St. Mary - - -	236	1178	949
St. Martin at Oak - -	351	1698	1243
St. Augustine - - -	266	1226	850
St. George of Colgate -	259	1295	1154
St. Clement - - -	123	816	593
St. Edmund - - -	108	520	370
St. Saviour - - -	162	810	701
St. Paul - - -	292	1461	983
St. James - - -	166	696	416
Pockthorp - - -	137	1116	732
Heigham - - -	164	653	544
Lakenham - - -	35	165	221
Eaton - - -	39	226	153
Earlham - - -	9	68	50
Hellefdon - - -	12	70	65
Thorp in the liberty of Nor- wich	5	36	69
Trowfe, Carrowe, and Bra- condale	85	386	258
Precinct of the Clofe	129	700	650
Total	7139	36169	28881

If we allow with Sir William Petty, the number of people upon the whole globe of the earth to be three hundred millions, Norwich will be found to contain $\frac{1}{3294}$ part thereof nearly.

Likewise admitting, with him, London to contain five hundred and thirty thousand souls, Norwich will appear to have $\frac{1}{14}$ th part as many.

By comparing the number of persons, in this city, with the present number of houses $5\frac{474}{7139}$ persons will be found to every house; this curiously agrees with accounts, that have been taken of several other cities, and proves ours to be depended upon as just.

Allowing one person at man's estate to dwell in each house, Norwich will be able, upon any emergency, to furnish out 7000 men and upwards, fit to bear arms.

Finally, if we admit major Graunt's and Mr. Derham's computations to be right, that at a medium the proportion of males to females is as 14 to 13, Norwich has at this time, 18754 males, and 17415 females.

On Thursday the thirty first of May, 1753, the corporation, attended by a large body of the principal inhabitants, and preceeded by the city musick, went the bounds of the city and county of Norwich.

On Saturday the twenty eighth day of July, between the hours of eight and nine in the evening, a sudden fire was discovered in the flax room of the city bridewell, which destroyed the greatest part of the building before it could be extinguished.

In March 1754, the most extraordinary performance in spinning ever known, was produced here by Mr. John Aggs of Mattishall, being twelve dozen and six skeins of curious, hard, even spun crape yarn, made by a woman of East Dereham, which weighed only sixteen ounces and nearly two drams.

In 1755, the following table was settled, shewing what habits are to be worn by the right worshipful Mr. Mayor, &c. on festival days, and at publick meetings.

Sundays. Mr. Mayor in scarlet, the aldermen in black, except on such days as other habits are appointed.

Christmase Day. Mr. Mayor and aldermen in scarlet, the sheriffs in violet.

St. Stephen's Day, when Sunday. Mr. Mayor in scarlet, the aldermen in violet, the sheriffs in black.

New Year's Day, when Sunday. Mr. Mayor and aldermen in scarlet, the sheriffs in violet.

Epiphany, when Sunday. Mr. Mayor and aldermen in scarlet, the sheriffs in violet.

The thirtieth of January, and all other special fasts. Mr. Mayor, aldermen, and sheriffs in black.

St. Matthias, when Sunday. Mr. Mayor and aldermen in scarlet, the sheriffs in violet.

Palm Sunday. Mr. Mayor and aldermen in scarlet, the sheriffs in violet.

Easter Day. Mr. Mayor and aldermen in scarlet, the sheriffs in violet.

Easter Wednesday, sermon at the hospital church in the afternoon. Mr. Mayor and aldermen in scarlet, the sheriffs in violet.

May-Day. Mr. Mayor, and the aldermen above the chair, in scarlet, the aldermen below the chair in violet, the sheriffs in black.

May the twenty ninth, king Charles the Second's birth and return. Mr. Mayor and aldermen in scarlet, the sheriffs in violet.

Ascension Day. Mr. Mayor and aldermen in scarlet, the sheriffs in violet.

Whit-Sunday. Mr. Mayor and aldermen in scarlet, the sheriffs in violet.

Trinity Sunday. Mr. Mayor and aldermen in scarlet, the sheriffs in violet.

Guild Day. Mr. Mayor and aldermen in scarlet, the sheriffs in violet.

Sunday in Assize Week, and attendance on the Judges. Mr. Mayor and aldermen in scarlet, the sheriffs in violet.

Midsummer Day, when Sunday. Mr. Mayor and aldermen in scarlet, the sheriffs in violet.

Last Tuesday in August, the election of a sheriff. Mr. Mayor in scarlet, the aldermen in violet, the sheriffs in black.

Michaelmas Day. Mr. Mayor and aldermen in scarlet, the sheriffs in violet.

Holymas Day, when Sunday. Mr. Mayor and aldermen in scarlet, the sheriffs in violet.

Inauguration. Mr. Mayor and aldermen in scarlet, the sheriffs in violet.

The King's Birth Day. Mr. Mayor and aldermen in scarlet, the sheriffs in violet.

November the fifth, Powder Plot, and on all other special thanksgivings. Mr. Mayor and aldermen in scarlet, the sheriffs in violet.

COMMEMORATION SERMONS.

Alderman Henry Fawcett's, at St. Michael's Cossany, on new year's day in the afternoon.

Alderman Thomas Anguish's, at St. Edmund's, on twelfth day in the afternoon.

Alderman Bernard Church's, at St. John's Sepulchre, on the seventeenth day of May, once in two years, preached in 1767.

Archbishop Parker's, at St. Clement's, in the afternoon on Ascension day.

Sir John Pettus's, the first Sunday in August, at St. Simon's and Jude's, in the afternoon.

Sir Joseph Payne's, at St. Gregory's, on the nineteenth of August in the afternoon, once in seven years, preached in 1766.

Mr. Nicholas Salter's, at St. Michael's at Plea, on the first day of August, once in seven years, preached in 1764.

Alderman Thomas Maltby's, at St. Mary's, on the twenty eighth of October, in the afternoon.

Lady Suckling's, at St. Andrew's, the Friday after St. Simon and Jude; and Sir John Suckling's the Sunday after; both in the afternoon.

Alderman Thomas Codd's, at St. Peter's per

Mountergate, the Sunday before St. Thomas, in the afternoon.

N. B. At all which commemoration sermons, the mayor in scarlet, the aldermen in violet, and sheriffs in black, unless they fall on such days as other habits are appointed.

Court Days. Mr. Mayor in scarlet, the aldermen in violet, and sheriffs in black.

At Assemblies. Mr. Mayor in scarlet, the aldermen in violet, and sheriffs in black.

At Sessions. Mr. Mayor and the aldermen above the chair in scarlet, the sheriffs in violet.

Late Sheriffs. When Mr. Mayor and the aldermen wear scarlet, such as have been sheriffs wear violet; but when the aldermen wear violet, then black.

Recorder and Steward. When in procession with Mr. Mayor and the court of aldermen, to wear the tufted gown, except in the assize week, and at sessions.

Memorandum. What habits are worn in the forenoon on any day whatsoever, are not to be altered in the afternoon.

When to wear the Furr. Mr. Mayor in scarlet faced with furr, the aldermen above the chair in violet faced with furr, from Holymas to May-day.

When the Cloaks of Justice are to be worn.

On Christmas day, Easter day, and Whit-Sunday, in the afternoon. On the Guild-day, and by Mr. Mayor at the sermon in the assize week.

On Friday the 14th day of February, 1756, one of the four spires of the cathedral tower was blown down by a violent storm of wind.

On Wednesday the 26th day of May, war was declared here against France with the usual solemnities.

Early in the morning of Monday, January 10, 1757, a slight shock of an earthquake was felt, preceeded by a strange rumbling noise in the air; its direction was nearly due east and west.

At an assembly held on the 3d of May, it was ordered, that the thanks of the corporation be returned to Mr. Matthew Goss, for his present of a gold chain and medal, to be worn by the present and future mayors of this city*; and also, that the said Mr. Goss be presented with the freedom of this city.

On account of the very high price of wheat, and the great scarcity of work, the distresses of the poor must have been insupportable, but for the generous subscription of the inhabitants for their relief; by which about twelve thousand persons were supplied with good household bread, at half price, for a considerable time.

The earl of Orford being appointed lord lieutenant of Norfolk and Norwich, in the room of the earl of Buckinghamshire, deceased, his lordship arrived here on Tuesday, July 12, and put the act, lately passed, for the better regulating the militia of this kingdom in execution. The number of men to be raised in this city is, by the said act, fixed at one hundred

* The chain formerly worn by the mayor, is now used by the gentleman who served that office the preceeding year.

dred and fifty one, who were sworn in and inrolled on Friday the 11th of November.

On Tuesday January 31, 1758, the elegant theatre, lately erected in this city, was opened with the play of 'The Way of the World.'

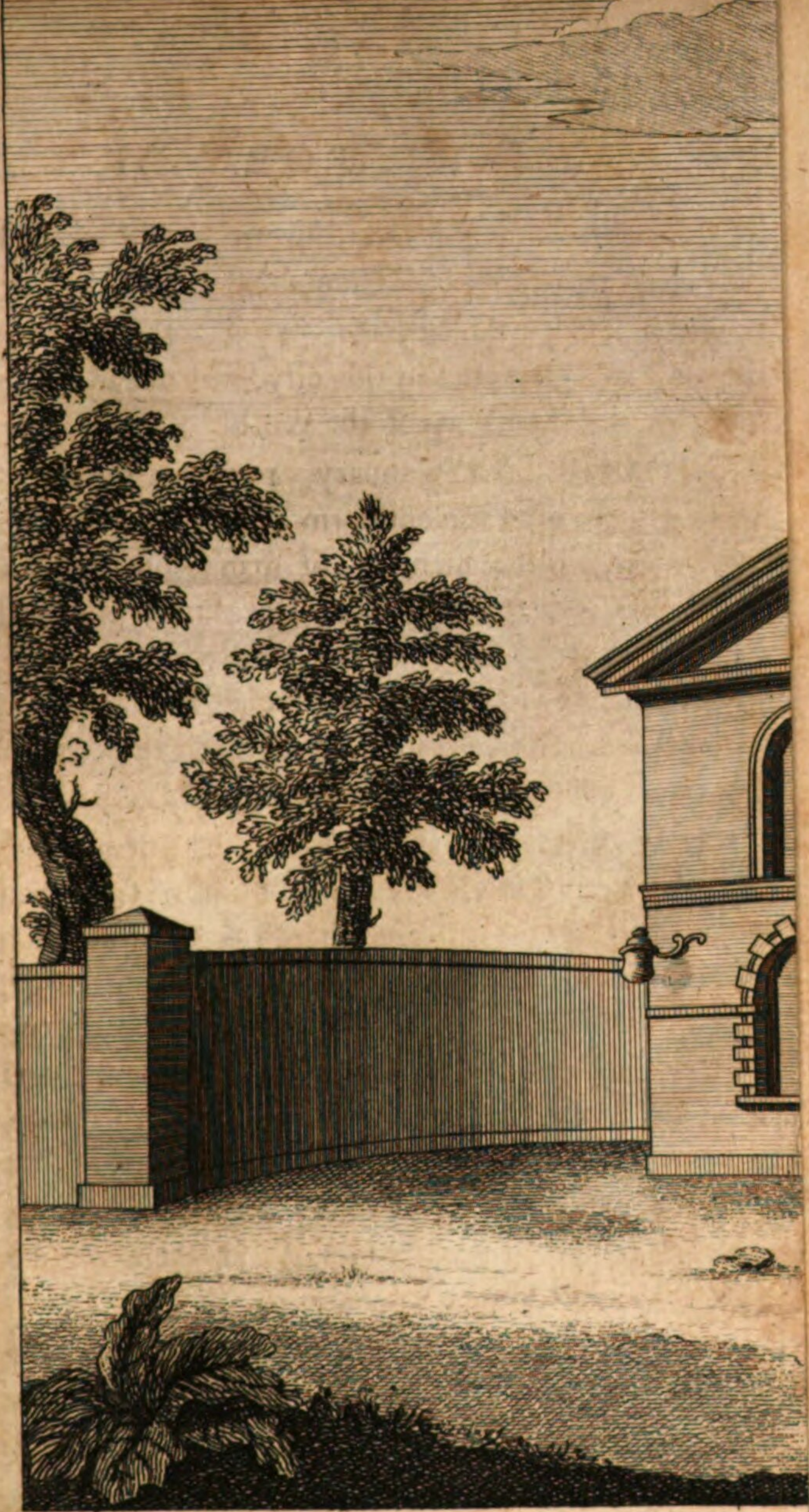
On the 21st day of January, 1759, in the afternoon, fell the most violent storm of hail, ever known in this city in the memory of man: some of the hail stones (or, more properly speaking, pieces of ice) were prodigiously large. One was taken up, which measured more than two inches in length, and an inch and half in breadth; it weighed three quarters of an ounce, and was extremely jagged.

On Wednesday and Thursday, the 4th and 5th of July, the Norfolk regiment of militia marched from this city for Portsmouth. The first battalion marched in two divisions by Newmarket, Cambridge, Ware, and Barnet; and the second battalion, in two divisions likewise, by Colchester, Witham, and Rumford: the whole regiment joined near London, and passed in review before his majesty, thro' the palace yard at Kensington on Tuesday the 17th, who expressed great satisfaction, at their regular discipline and military appearance.

Thursday October 30, 1760, his majesty king George the third was proclaimed here, amidst the repeated and unanimous acclamations of the inhabitants.

On Monday, January 11, 1762, war was declared against Spain.

At



To North Ea



T.B. delin 1758.

At the assembly held on St. Matthias's day, it was determined to prosecute all persons, who shall presume (not being free) to sell any kind of goods or merchandise by retale in their shops or warehouses, contrary to the ancient customs of this city, and the privileges granted to the citizens thereof, by several royal charters.

At an assembly held the third of May, a committee was appointed to enquire into the abuses committed in the measurement of coals from on board ships, and to consider of proper means to prevent such abuses for the future; the committee accordingly nominated twelve persons to be sworn as meters, who are to have 3d per chalder for their trouble, to be paid by the buyer; and likewise drew up a set of rules and orders for their better regulation; a copy of which is to be delivered to each meter, and another hung up in the publick office of the collector of the tonage duties.

Early on Wednesday morning, October 27, the inhabitants of this city were surpris'd with a sudden inundation of water, which entirely overflowed the lower parts of the city, and laid under water between two and three thousand houses, with eight parish churches: the flood continued all Wednesday, but began to abate on Thursday morning: it was fifteen inches higher than that called St. Faith's flood in 1691; but not so high as the great flood in 1646 by 8 inches; or St. Andrew's flood in 1614 by thirteen inches. The damage done by it to the
houses,

houses, wares, &c. is supposed to amount to several thousand pounds.

On Monday, January 3, 1763, died John Spurrel Esq; alderman of south Conisford ward, who by his will left the sum of 1355 l. to be paid to the mayor, sheriffs, citizens, and commonalty of Norwich, within sixteen months after his decease, they to give security for the same with a yearly interest of 54l. 4s. which interest is to be applied to the following purposes; 48l. for the use of the poor in the great hospital, to be paid to the master of the said hospital, by four quarterly payments, who shall pay and equally divide the same, amongst all and every the poor, who shall be in and belonging to the said great hospital, at the time of his receiving such payments; four pounds to be paid in June yearly to the said master, who on the first day of August in every year, shall distribute ' one penny to each of the
' poor, for a pint of strong beer; and the remainder
' of the said 4l shall be expended for veal, at the
' best hand, to be that day roasted and boiled, for
' the dinner of the said poor, and for a proper quantity of butter to be eaten therewith: but when the first of August shall fall on a Sunday, then such veal dinner to be on the Monday: forty shillings to be paid to the church-wardens and overseers of St. John Sepulchre, 10s. whereof to be paid to the minister of the said parish, for a sermon to be preached there on the third Sunday in June early in the afternoon, against prophane cursing and swearing, and the remaining 30s. to be expended in bread, to be

be distributed amongst such poor as shall attend the service on that day, and such other poor as may be prevented attending, by sickness. He also requires, that the corporation shall order a sermon, on death and judgment, to be preached by the minister of the great hospital church on the Wednesday in Whitsun-week yearly. And that all the charitable donations and bequests, in and by his will giving and bequeathed, be fairly engrossed upon parchment, and yearly read in the said hospital church, between the prayers and sermon last mentioned; the minister to have 4s the remainder of the said sum of 54l. 4s for reading the said donations, and preaching the sermon. Corporation refusing or neglecting, at any time, to comply with the directions of his will, in such case the 1355l. to devolve to his executor, &c.

On Wednesday, April 13, peace was proclaimed here.

On Tuesday, October 18, his royal highness William duke of Cumberland passed thro' this city. And on the 22d. of the same month the reigning prince of Anhalt-Deffau, attended by the barons Erdmanndorff, Neutshitz, and Feltheim, arrived here, who after viewing the curiosities and manufactures of the town, set forward for Yarmouth.

On the 3d of May, 1765, it was ordered, that six pickaxes and six spades be bought and deposited in the engine house; and that keys of the engine house be left with the gaoler, the bridewell keeper, and the engineer; and that boards, with inscriptions

signifying the same, be put over the door of every house where the keys are kept, and another upon the engine house door, to denote where the said keys are deposited.

On the 21st of September an order of assembly was made, that for the future, the clerk of the market, the collector of the upper market, and the weigher of the hay, be elected by the assembly at large, and not by the market committee, as had been usually done.

February 24, 1766, it was ordered, that for the future all corn rents be reserved in kind, and that money be not received in lieu thereof.

This year, on account of the great scarcity and advanced price of all kinds of provisions, several dangerous riots were raised in various parts of the kingdom. At Norwich, a mischievous and licentious rabble collected themselves together on Saturday, September 27, about noon, who in the course of that and the following day, committed numerous outrages; such as greatly damaging the houses, and totally destroying the furniture of several bakers, pulling down part of the new mills, and destroying a large quantity of flower there, and burning to the ground a large malthouse without Conisford gate. Every lenient measure was made use of by the magistrates to quiet the minds of these poor deluded wretches, but to no effect. The magistrates and principal inhabitants, therefore came to the spirited resolution of repelling force by force; in consequence of which, on Sunday afternoon, about five o'clock, they

they attacked the rioters, whilst they were demolishing a house on Tombland, with such vigour and resolution, and so effectually dispersed them, that they never more got to any head. About thirty of the ringleaders were taken, eight of whom received sentence of death, at the assizes held by special commission on the first of December, and the following days; but two only received the just desert of their enormous crimes, who were executed on the 10th of January, 1767.

In the night of December 25, 1766, a sudden and terrible fire broke out at the dwelling-house of Mr. Ward, a butcher in Ber-street, which in a very short space of time entirely consumed the same, together with Mr. Ward's wife, mother, two children, a grand child, and a maid servant; Mr. Ward himself, and two sons, narrowly escaping.

In January, 1767, happened the greatest fall of snow ever known in the memory of man. It laid near a month upon the ground, and was so general, as greatly to obstruct the commerce of the whole kingdom.

On the 23d of March, the bill for making a turnpike, from the end of the town close to Thetford, received the royal assent.

At an assembly held May 3, it was ordered, that the market for corn, grain, and seeds, be held for the future near the hay-house.

On Friday, July 3, the feigned issue between the mayor and corporation of this city, and Mr. Jeremiah Berry, an attorney of the honourable court

of Common-Pleas, was argued in the court of King's Bench. The question was, Whether the privilege of an attorney exempted him from serving the office of sheriff? when all the judges were clearly of opinion, that such privilege not only excused him from serving that office, but even offices of a superior nature to that of sheriff of a corporation.

February 20, 1768, the corporation, consisting of the mayor, sheriffs, recorder, steward, aldermen, and common-council, with their officers, stood as follows :

The Right Worshipful Thomas Starling, Esq; Mayor*, elected alderman December 6, 1764, for St. Giles's ward.

Nathaniel Roe and John Ives, Esqrs. Sheriffs.†

Edward

* The mayor is elected by the freemen on the first day of May, and sworn into his office on the Guild-day, which is always the Tuesday before Midsummer-day, except when Midsummer-day falls on a Wednesday, and then the Guild is kept on the Tuesday se'nnight before Midsummer-day. He is elected from amongst the aldermen, is justice of the quorum during his mayoralty, and afterwards justice of the peace during life, unless lawfully re-

moved from his office of alderman. The mayor, with the sheriffs, holds courts every Wednesday and Saturday, to hear complaints, and to do every other act tending to the peaceable government of the city.

† One of the sheriffs is chosen by the court of aldermen, the other by the freemen, on the last Tuesday in August, and are sworn into their office on Michaelmas-day. They hold courts for the trial of actions of debt and trespass.

Edward Bacon, Esq; Recorder.†

Charles Buckle, Esq; Steward.§

Aldermen || past the Chair.

John Pattenfon, Esq; Deputy Mayor, elected Jan. 6, 1763, for S. Conisford ward.

Robert Marsh, Esq; May 12, 1724, for Berstreet.

Robert Harvey, Esq; Feb. 6, 1730, for W. Wymer.

John Nuthall, Esq; Mar. 6, 1733, for W. Wymer.

Edward King, Esq; May 30, 1733, for Colgate.

John Wood, Esq; Feb. 20, 1739, for Colgate.

William Crowe, Esq; Jan. 8, 1742, for Berstreet.

Tho. Harvey, Esq; Oct. 3, 1742, for N. Conisford.

John Prefs, Esq; June 2, 1752, for E. Wymer.

John Gay, Esq; Nov. 1, 1752, for Mid. Wymer.

Peter

† The recorder, who must be a barrister, assists in the mayor's court as chief judge; is always justice of the quorum, and one of the council for the city.

§ The steward, who must also be a barrister, assists in the sheriffs courts as chief judge, is always justice of the quorum, and the other council for the city.

|| The twenty-four aldermen

are chosen for the twelve smaller wards, two for each ward, whose office it is to keep the peace in their several divisions. When any one of them die, or be displaced, the freemen of that great ward, in which the lesser ward is included, for which he is to serve, must elect another in his room, within five days after the death of his predecessor.

Peter Colombine, Esq; Dec. 5, 1752, Mid. Wymer.

Jeremiah Ives, Esq; Dec. 6, 1752, for Fyebridge.

John Goodman, Esq; Mar. 24, 1742, for Mancroft.

Robert Rogers, Esq; Sept. 4, 1753, for Fyebridge.

Nock. Thompson, Esq; April 19, 1754, N. Conisford

Barth. Harwood, Esq; Apr. 9, 1742, for St. Giles's.

Sir T. Churchman, Knt. May 25, 1759, St. Stephen's

Jermy Harcourt, Esq; Sept. 13, 1759, St. Stephen's

Benj. Hancock, Esq; April 10, 1761, for Mancroft

James Poole, Esq; Sept. 28, 1762, for E Wymer.

Aldermen below the Chair.

John Day, Esq; July 27, 1765, for Cossany.

Jer. Ives, jun. Esq; July 1, 1766, for S. Conisford.

Robert Harvey, Esq; Jan. 5, 1768, for Cossany.]

COMMON

COMMON COUNCIL.*

Conisford Ward. 12.

Mr. Isaac Jackson
John Brown
Benj Westall
Robert Elvin
Samuel Cubit
Thomas Ward

Mr. George Sharpen
Benj. Pendleton
Tho. Nasmith
Gil. Brownsmith
Thomas Ives
Abel Meen.

Mancroft Ward. 16.

Mr. Joseph Hindmarsh
Tho. Harwood
Rich. Matthews
Tim. Matthews
Henry Trull
Cha. Reynolds
Edm. Manning
Wm. Money

Mr. Elias Norgate
James Hudson
Robert Jollins
James Dersley
John Corbould
Reuben Deeve
Tho. Black
One vacant.

Wymer Ward. 20.

Mr. Elisha De Hague§
Wm. Chafe
John Simpson
Cha. Fearman
John Aldred

Mr. John Bringloe
Christ. Newman
James Hardy
John Marks
Hewett Rand

Mr.

* The common-council-men are elected by the freemen, dwelling in each of the four great wards, separately; for Conisford great ward on the Monday, Mancroft on the Tuesday, Wymer on the Wednesday,

and the ward beyond the water on the Thursday in Passion week, thence called cleansing week. They choose a speaker yearly, who is called speaker of the commons.

§ Speaker.

Mr. Fran. Colombine
Richard Day
Wm. Weatherill
Thomas Page
Isaac Spratt

Mr. Jonas Phillips
Thomas Day
Starling Day
James Smith
Rich. Peete.

Ward beyond the Water. 12.

Mr. Tho. Troughton
And. Rushbrooke
John Dawson
Wm. Barnham
John Castell
Joshua Lincoln

Mr. R. Brettingham
Wm. Cutting
Wm. Powell
Robert Cooper
Thomas Bafely
John Langton.

Mr. Francis Wright, Town Clerk, elected the 10th of March, 1758.

Officers annually elected at the Assembly held the 3d of May, are,

Coroners, Mr. Jehosaphat Poffle, Mr. Christopher Newman.

Chamberlain, Mr. Wm. Dewing.

Under Chamberlain, Mr. Samuel Strutt.

Twenty-four constables for the twelve wards, two for each.

Thirty-two guardians, agreeably to the workhouse act.

Officers attending on the Mayor, are;

Mr. Charles Lay, Sword-bearer and Water Bailiff.

John Rudsdale, John Cole, officers at Mace.

Edw. Duckett, Jos. Stone, marshal men.

Joseph Garthon, bellman.

Simon Tyler, charcoal-man.

Sam.

Sam. Cooke, Jonathan Lambert, Abraham Stan-
nard, Wm. Atkinson, ----- Reeve, Wayts.

The other officers are ;

The Under Sheriff, Mr. Sam. Freemoult.

Chief Constable, Mr. John Mottram.

Clerk of the Market, Mr. George Wymer.

Gaoler, Mr. Aaron Fromow.

Sergeants at Mace to the Sheriffs are ;

Wm. Duckett, Robert Johnson, John Howlet,
James Smith, John Talbot, John Duckett, William
Dearn, Richard Thurston.

CITY SURGEONS.

Mr. JOSEPH ROGERS, for the Parishes of

St. Peter Southgate	St. Peter Hungate
St. Etheldred	St. Simon and Jude
St. Julian	St. George Tombland
St. Peter per Mounter- gate	St. Martin at Palace
St. John Sepulchre	St. Helen, and the ham- lets of Trowse, Car- rowe, Bracondale, and
St. Michael at Thorn	Lakenham, St. An- drew's workhouse, and
St. John Timberhill	Bridewell.
All Saints	
St. Andrew	
St. Michael at Plea	

Mr. WILLIAM DONNE, for the parishes of

St. Stephen

St. Peter of Mancroft

St. Giles

St. Benedict

St. Swithin

St. Margaret

St. Laurence

St. Gregory

St. John Maddermarket

The hamlets of Eaton,
Earlham & Heigham;
and for St. John's
workhouse, and the
city gaol.

Mr. DAVID MARTINEAU, for the Parishes of

St. Michael Coslany

St. Mary

St. Martin at Oak

St. Augustine

St. George Colgate

St. Clement

St. Edmund

St. Saviour

St. Paul

St. James, the hamlets of
Pockthorpe, Hellefdon
and Thorpe, and the
infirmary.

An exact LIST of the
MAYORS, SHERIFFS, &c.

From the Year 1403 to 1768.

MAYORS.

SHERIFFS.

1403	W M. Appleyard	Robert Brasier, John Daniel
1404	W. Appleyard, 2	Sampson Baxter, John Skye
1405	Wm. Appleyard, 3	John Harleston, Richard Spurdaunce
1406	Walter Daniel	Edmund Warner, Richard Drue
1407	John Daniel	Tho. Garrard, John Warlich
1408	Edmund Warner	Thomas Parlet, John Bixley
1409	Walter Daniel, 2	Walter Moneflee, John Mannying
1410	Robert Brasier	John Shotesham, Jeffery Audley
1411	William Appleyard, 4	John Leverich, John Wake
1412	William Appleyard, 5	Richard White, John Crownthorpe
1413	Richard Drue	Wm. Sedeman, Robert Suffield
1414	John Bixley	Tho. Cock, Henry Raffman
1415	John Mannying	Richard Moneflee, Tho. Ocle
1416	Henry Raffman	John Asgar, John Mitchel
1417	John Daniel, 2	Wm. Roose, Henry Jakys
1418	Wm. Appleyard, 6	Robert Baxter, John Cambridge
1419	Walter Daniel, 3	Henry Pykynge, John Shotesham
1420	Richard Spurdaunce	Tho. Ingham, Robert Asgar
1421	William Sedeman	Wm. Nyche, Simon Cooke
1422	John Mannying, 2	John Gerrard, Tho. Daniel
1423	Walter Daniel, 4	John Wright, John Hodgekins
1424	Robert Baxter	Wm. Grey, Peter Brasier
1425	Thomas Ingham	Tho. Wetherby, Robert Chapelyn
1426	John Asgar	John Copping, John Gleder
1427	Tho. Wetherby	John Welby, Richard Steynes
1428	Richard Moneflee	John Alderford, Gregory Draper
1429	Robert Baxter, 2	Wm. Isleham, John Sipater
1430	John Cambridge	Robert Toppys, John Penning
1431	Thomas Ingham, 2	Wm. Ashwell, Tho. Grafton

1432 Tho.

356 THE HISTORY OF

MAYORS.

- 1432 Thomas Wetherby, 2
1433 Richard Spurdaunce, 2
1434 John Gerard
1435 Robert Toppys

1436 Robert Chapelyn

1437 John Cambridge, 2

SHERIFFS.

- John Dunnyng, Augustine Bang
Robt. Londeisdale, Wm. Hempstede
Roger Booton, Tho. Ball
Edmund Bretton, Peter Roper

Richard Brafter, Chr. Crumpe, to
March 1.

Walter Eaton, John Lynford, by
the king's writ.

Simon Walfoken, Clement Raythe

The LIBERTIES feized.

John Welles, Warden,
acted single to March
1, and then appointed
the Mayor to act un-
der him.

1438 John Welles, Warden,
J. Cambridge, Mayor.

1439 John Welles, Warden,
J. Cambridge, Mayor.

Walter Eaton, John Lynford, to
July 17.

Simon Walfoken, Clement Raythe,
the rest of the year.

The LIBERTIES restored

1440 Robert Toppys, 2

1441 Wm. Ashwell

1442 Wm. Hempstede

John Brosyerd, John Spicer

John Gosleyn, Henry Sturmyn

Tho. Alleyn, Ralph Segryme, to
March 18.

The LIBERTIES feized.

Sir John Clifton, Gov.

1443 Sir John Clifton, Gov.

1444 Sir John Clifton, Gov.

1445 Sir John Clifton, Gov.

1446 Sir John Clifton, Gov.

to April 20.

Tho. Catworth, warden

1447 Tho. Catworth, Warden,

to Dec. 1.

John Intwood, Robert Alleyn

John Intwood, Robert Alleyn

John Intwood, Robert Alleyn

John Intwood, Robert Alleyn

John Intwood, Robert Alleyn, to

Dec. 1.

The

The LIBERTIES restored.

MAYORS.

William Hempstede
 1448 William Ashwell, 2
 1449 Gregory Draper
 1450 Thomas Alleyn
 1451 Ralph Segryme
 1452 Robert Toppys, 3
 1453 John Drolle
 1454 Richard Brown
 1455 Gregory Draper, 2
 1456 Richard Brasier
 1457 John Chittock
 1458 Robert Toppys, 4
 1459 John Gilbert
 1460 Thomas Ellis
 1461 William Norwich
 1462 John Butt
 1463 Richard Brasier, 2
 1464 John Gilbert, 2
 1465 Thomas Ellis, 2
 1466 John Chittock, 2
 1467 Roger Best
 1468 Walter Thornfield
 1469 John Aubery
 1470 Edward Cutler
 1471 John Butt, 2
 1472 Roger Best, 2
 1473 Richard Ferroure
 1474 Thomas Ellis, 3
 1475 William Swaine
 1476 John Wellys
 1477 Robert Portland
 1478 Richard Ferroure, 2
 1479 Thomas Bokenham
 1480 John Aubery, 2
 1481 Robert Aylmer

SHERIFFS.

Tho. Alleyn, Ralph Segryme
 Robert Furbusher, John Wighton
 Richard Brown, John Drolle
 John Chittock, Robert Machone
 William Barley, John Gilbert
 Thomas Ellis, Robert Syrede
 Edward Cutler, John Clarke
 Richard Bear, Jeffery Quinch
 William Norwich, John Albone
 Thomas Bokenham, John Butt
 Jeffery Joye, John Hunworth
 Thomas Owdolfe, William Reynes
 Walter Godfrey, Edmund Coleman
 Roger Best, John Aubery
 John Northal, John Cook
 John Burton, Richard Hofte
 Henry Spencer, William Willis
 William Swaine, Robert Portland
 Walter Thornfield, Richard Daniel
 John Rose, John Beccles
 John Laws, Robert Hickling
 Richard Ferroure, Thomas Veyle
 Thomas Bokenham, Wm. Pepper
 John Harvey, Henry Owdolfe
 John Wellys, Robert Aylmer
 Edmund Staley, Thomas Storme
 John Cocke, William London
 James Goldbeater John Burghe
 Thomas Cambridge, Rob. Lounde
 Hammond Claxton, Robert Cooke
 Gregory Clarke, Phillip Curson
 Robert Osborne, Thomas Bewfield
 Robert Wellys, Thomas Phillips
 Robert Gardiner, Thomas Woorts
 Robert Belton, John Denton

1482 William

MAYORS.

1482 William London
 1483 Richard Ferroure, 3
 1484 John Cook
 1485 Hammond Claxton
 1486 John Aubrey, 3 died.
 Thomas Bokenham, 2
 1487 John Wellys, 2
 1488 Thomas Bewfield
 1489 Richard Ballys
 1490 Robert Gardiner
 1491 William London, 2
 1492 Robert Aylmer, 2
 1493 Richard Ferroure 4.
 1494 Stephen Bryan
 1495 J. Wellys, 3 died. T. Cause
 1496 John Rede
 1497 Nicholas Cowlitch
 1498 Richard Ferroure, 5
 1499 Robert Gardiner, 2
 1500 John Warnes
 1501 John Rightwys
 1502 William Ramsey
 1503 Thomas Cause, 2
 1504 Robert Burghe
 1505 Gregory Clarke
 1506 Robert Gardiner, 3
 1507 Thomas Aldrich
 1508 William Ramsey, 2
 1509 Robert Long
 1510 Richard Braier
 1511 Richard Aylmer
 1512 William Hart
 1513 John Rightwys, 2
 1514 Gregory Clarke, 2
 1515 John Clarke

SHERIFFS.

Richard Ballys, Ralph Est
 William Rose, William Ferroure
 John Ebbs, William Curtis
 John Tills, John Swaine
 Thomas Wilkins, John Jowelle
 John Pyncheamore, John Caister
 John Rede, Richard Howard
 Thomas Cause, Nicholas Davie
 Nicholas Cowlitch, Wm. Gogson
 Stephen Bryan, John Cocke
 John Warnes, John Rightwys
 Robert Long, Bartholomew King
 John Horsley, Robert Burghe
 Richard Braier, Robert Best
 John Francis, John Pethood
 Gregory Clarke, Thomas Aldrich
 William Ramsey, Thomas Henuing
 John Randolph, Rob. Pyncheamore
 Jefferey Steward, John Crome
 Richard Aylmer, William Drake
 Simon Rede, John Smith
 Thomas Warnes, Thomas Gaunt
 W. Hart, J. Hendry died. J. Walters
 Thomas Large, William Godfrey
 Thomas Clarke, John Swaine
 John Clarke, William Ferroure
 Edward Rede, Robert Brown
 Henry Attemere, Robert Jannys
 John Marham, Ralph Wilkins
 Robert Pell, John Stalone
 Stephen Stalone, Richard Corpesty
 John Busting, Thomas Pickerel
 Henry Scholehouse, John Terry
 Robert Barker, d. Richard Ferroure, d.
 William Broome, Thomas Wilkins
 1516 Thomas

MAYORS.

- 1516 Thomas Aldrich, 2
 1517 Robert Jannys
 1518 John Martham
 1519 William Hart
 1520 John Clarke, 2
 1521 Edward Rede
 1522 Robert Brown
 1523 John Terry
 1524 Robert Jannys, 2
 1525 Thomas Pickerel
 1526 Robert Ferroure
 1527 Ralph Wilkins
 1528 William Broome
 1529 Robert Green
 1530 Thomas Bauburgh
 1531 Edward Rede 2
 1532 Reginald Littleprow
 1533 Thomas Pickerel, 2
 1534 Augustine Steward
 1535 Nicholas Sywhat
 1536 Robert Ferroure, 2
 1537 William Layer
 1538 Thomas Pickerel, 3
 1539 Nicholas Sotherton
 1540 Thomas Grewe
 1541 Robert Leech
 1542 William Rogers
 1543 Edward Rede, 3
 1544 Henry Fuller
 1545 Robert Rugge
 1546 Augustine Steward, 2
 1547 Robert Leech, 2
 1548 Edmund Wood, died
 William Rogers, 2
 1549 Thomas Codde
 1550 Robert Rugge, 2

SHERIFFS.

- Thomas Bauberg, Gregory Cause
 Robert Green, Thomas Cory
 Robert Hemming, Ham. Linstead
 John Brown, Bartholomew Springal
 Nicholas Sywhat, John Westgate
 Thomas Moore, Robert Hall
 William Ruffel, John Watts
 Reg. Littleprow, William Norfolk
 Ste. Raynbow, W. Crane, d. H. Salter
 Robert Leech, John Swaine
 Augustine Steward, W. Layer
 Thomas Grewe, John Clarke
 Thomas Crank, Henry Fuller
 John Curat, John Corbet
 Tho. Necton, Nicholas Sotherton
 Richard Catlyn, William Rogers
 John Groote, William Haste
 Adam Lawes, Roger Cooper
 John Lynn, Thomas Greenwood
 Robert Brown, Henry Crook
 Edmund Wood, Tho. Thetford
 Robert Rugge, Robert Palmer
 Nich. Osborn, John Humberston
 Ja. Martham, T. Walter, J. Trace
 Thomas Codd, John Spencer
 John Quash, Felix Puttock
 Thomas Cocke, Richard Davy
 Rich. Lee. W. Morant, T. Martham
 Edmund Warren, Robert Marlyng
 Richard Suckling, Robert Lyng
 Robert Mitchell, Bernard Utber
 Thomas Dowfing, Wm. Hede
 Henry Bacon, John Atkins
 Richard Fletcher, Wm. Ferroure
 Thomas Morley, John Walters
 1551 Richard

MAYORS.

1551 Richard Davy
 1552 Thomas Cocke
 1553 Henry Crooke
 1554 Thomas Marsham
 1555 Felix Puttock, died.
 Thomas Codd, 2
 1556 Augustine Steward, 3
 1557 Henry Bacon
 1558 John Aldrich
 1559 Richard Fletcher
 1560 Robert Mychell
 1561 William Mingay
 1562 William Ferroure
 1563 Richard Davy, 2
 1564 Nicholas Norgate
 1565 Thomas Sotherton
 1566 Henry Bacon, 2
 1567 Thomas Whale
 1568 Thomas Parker
 1569 Robert Wood
 1570 John Aldrich
 1571 Thomas Green
 1572 Robert Suckling
 1573 Thomas Pecke
 1574 Christopher Some
 1575 William Ferroure, 2
 1576 Thomas Layer
 1577 Thomas Cully
 1578 Sir Robert Wood, Kt. 2
 1579 Simon Bowde
 1580 Christopher Some, 2
 1581 Christopher Layer
 1582 Robert Suckling, 2
 1583 Thomas Gleane
 1584 John Suckling
 1585 Thomas Layer, 2

SHERIFFS.

John Aldrich, Thomas Grey
 Robert Norman, John Bungay
 Nicholas Norgate John Howes
 Thomas Malbye, Wm. Mingay
 Thomas Green, John Bloome
 Tho. Sotherton, Leon. Sotherton
 Edm. Woolsey, T. Lynn, J. Benjamin
 Thomas Parker, Andrew Quash
 Tho. Cully, Thomas Tesmond
 Thomas Whale, Richard Hede
 Robert Wood, Thomas Pecke
 Tho. Ferroure, Thomas Beamond
 Christopher Some, Ellis Bate
 Robert Suckling, John Gibbs
 John Sotherton, Thomas Winter
 Thomas Pettus, John Suckling
 John Worley, Thomas Layer
 John Rede, Simon Bowde
 Christopher Layer, Richard Bate
 Tho. Gleane, Robert Gostling
 Henry Greenwood, Edward Pye
 Nich. Sotherton, Francis Rugge
 George Bowgeon, Tho. Stokes
 Nicholas Baker, Thomas Gooch
 Richard Baker, Clement Hyrne
 Cut. Brereton, Francis Morley
 Rich. Howes, Rich. Bange
 John Elwin, Thomas Secker
 Robert Davy, John Pye
 Laur. Wood, Nich. Bradford
 Rich. Ferroure, Thomas Pye
 Rob. Yarrum, John Wilkinson
 Henry Pye, Ed. Johnson
 Laur. Watts, Titus Norris
 Roger Weld, John Tesmond

1586 Tho-

MAYORS.

1586 Thomas Pecke, 2
 1587 Francis Rugge
 1588 Simon Bowde, 3
 1589 Christopher Layer, 2
 1590 Thomas Pettus
 1591 Robert Yarrum
 1592 Thomas Gleane
 1593 Clement Hyrne
 1594 Christopher Some, 3
 1595 Thomas Layer, 3
 1596 Richard Ferroure
 1597 Thomas Pye
 1598 Francis Rugge, 2
 1599 Roger Weld
 1600 Alexander Thurstone
 1601 John Tesmond
 1602 Thomas Gleane, 3 d.
 Francis Rugge, 3
 1603 Thomas Lane
 1604 Thomas Hyrne
 1605 Thomas Sotherton
 1606 Joshua Cully
 1607 George Downynge
 1608 Sir John Pettus, Kt.
 1609 Sir Tho. Hyrne, Kt. 2
 1610 Roger Ramsey
 1611 Thomas Anguish
 1612 Thomas Blossie
 1613 George Cocke
 1614 Thomas Pettus
 1615 Peter Gleane
 1616 Sir Thomas Hyrne, Kt. 3
 1617 John Mingay
 1618 Richard Roffe
 1619 Roger Gaywood
 1620 Richard Tolye

SHERIFFS.

Henry Davy, Joshua Cully
 Alex. Thurstone, Greg. Houlton
 Rob. Rooke, Wm. Ramsey
 Randolph Smith, John Sylver
 Robert Hall, Wm. Peters
 Nich. Layer, Tho. Lane
 Tho. Sotherton, Roger Ramsey
 Rob. Blackburne, Aug. Whale
 Rich. Tolye, Wm. Johnson
 E. Browne, d. R. Sadler, R. Gaywood
 Tho. Anguish, Rob. Gybson
 Tho. Hyrne, Peter Barker
 J. Pettus, George Downynge
 Rob. Garthead, Henry Galliard
 Tho. Pettus, Rob. Debney
 J. Chapman, Spencer Peterson
 John Mingay, William Drake
 Ed. Nutting, John Symonds
 Geo. Birch, Geo. Cocke
 Mich. Aldrich, Fran. Smallpiece
 Tho. Blossie, John Shovell
 Rob. Craske, James Allen
 Rob. Hornsey, Henry Fawcett
 Bassing. Throckmorton, T. Doughty
 Peter Gleane, Rich. Goldman
 Richard Roffe, Simon Davie
 William Buffey, John Norris
 Lyonel Claxton, Mich. Parker.
 Tho. Spendlove, Mat. Peckover
 Christ. Baret, Francis Cocke
 Wm. Browne, Tho. Cory
 Alex. Anguish, Ed. Cocke
 John Anguish, John Warde
 Nath. Remington, Lucian Laws
 Tho. Shipdham, Tho. Baker.

A a a

George

MAYORS.

SHERIFFS.

1621	George Birche	John Ramsey, John Ling
1622	Francis Smallpiece	Nich. Emmes, Rob. Sumpter
1623	Robert Craske	Wm. Greene, R. Siggeswicke
1624	Robert Debney	John Loveland, Rob. Powle
1625	Michael Parker	N. Osborne, Step. Leverington
1626	Bassing. Throckmorton	Aug. Scottow, Rich. Harman
1627	Francis Cocke	Henry Lane, Thomas Atkin
1628	Thomas Cory	Wm. Symonds, John Daniel
1629	Alexander Anguish	John Thacker, Wm. Gostlin
1630	William Browne	John Tolye, Rob. Palgrave
1631	Thomas Shipdham	Rob. Tompson, Tho Carver
1632	Robert Hornsey	Edm. Burman, Adr. Parmenter
1633	William Buffy	Rich. Warde, Rich. Keepis
1634	Christopher Baret	Sam. Puckle, Mat. Peckover
1635	John Anguish	Tho. Barber, John Croshold
1636	Thomas Baker	John Freeman, John Utting
1637	Robert Sumpter	John Lombe, Mat. Sotherton
1638	John Tolye	Livewell Sherwood, J. Grey
1639	Richard Harman	Henry Watts, John Salter
1640	Henry Lane	John Osborne, John Dethick
1641	T. Carver, mayor elect, d.	Mat. Linsey, Rob. Baron
	Adr. Parmenter.	
1642	William Gostling	J. Greenwood, J. Rayley
1643	John Thacker	Thomas Toft, Richard Bateman
1644	John Tolye, 2	Thomas Baret, Bernard Church
1645	Matthew Peckover	John Cory, Wm. Rye
1646	Henry Watts	Rich. Wenman, Robert Holmes
1647	John Utting	Tho. Ashwell, William Davy
1648	Edmund Burman	Wm. Barnham, Rob. Allen
1649	R. Baron, d. J. Rayley	A. Peckover, d. J. Mann, S. Brewster
1650	M. Linsey, d. T. Baret	Wm. Tooke, Nehemiah Bond
1651	Bernard Church	Tho. Johnson, John Knights
1652	William Barnham	Clement Parnel, Roger Whistler
1653	John Mann	Christ. Jay, Roger Mingay
1654	Thomas Toft	John Andrews, Joseph Paine
1655	John Salter	Henry Woods, Rich. Coldham
		1656 Samuel

MAYORS.

SHERIFFS.

1656 Samuel Puckle	Rob. Powle, James Long
1657 Christopher Jay	Rob. Gooch, Wm. Heyward
1658 Roger Mingay	Rob. Hawys, Mat. Marcon
1659 William Davy	Tho. Wisse, John Lawrence
1660 Sir Joseph Paine, Knt.	E. Browne, d. A. Briggs, G. Steward
1661 John Osborne	Henry Sydnor, Henry Hearne
1662 Richard Wenman	George Miris, John Manfer
1663 John Croshold	Rob. Bendish, Tho. Thacker
1664 William Heyward	H. Watts, jun. Tho. Chickering
1665 Matthew Marcon	J. Denew, F. Norris, d. J. Richer
1666 Henry Wood	H. Crowe, John Wigget
1667 Thomas Wisse	Rich. Wenman, Jehof. Davy
1668 Roger Hawys	Isaac Decele, Row. Cockey
1669 John Lawrence	John Wrench, Mark Cockey
1670 Augustine Briggs	Wm. Crowe, Adrian Paine
1671 Thomas Thacker	John Toll, d. Peter Wigget
	Daniel Palmer, d. John Lowe
1672 Robert Bendish	J. Leverington, R. Clayton, d.
	Robert Freeman
1673 Henry Hearne	John Dersley, H. Bokenham
1674 Henry Watts, Jun.	Rob. Cooke, Tho. Cooke
1675 John Manfer	Wm. Drake, John Todd
1676 Thomas Chickering	Wm. Helwys, Wm. Parmenter
1677 John Richer	Jerem. Vynne, Nicholas Helwys
1678 Jehofaphat Davy	Henry Brady, Simon Wiffiter
1679 Henry Crowe	James Brockden, Tho. Seaman
1680 Robert Freeman	Leo. Osborne, Fra. Gardiner
1681 Hugh Bokenham	John Westthorpe, Wm. Salter
1682 John Lowe	Phil. Stebbing, Lawr. Goodwin
1683 William Helwys	John Lowe, Samuel Warkhouse
1684 Nich. Helyws	Nic. Morley, Mich. Beverly
1685 Fr. Gardiner	Tho. Blofield, Aug. Briggs
1686 Wm. Salter	Wm. Guybon, Rich. Brockden
1687 Phil. Stebbing	Nich. Bickerdike, turned out by

King James, 2

Timothy Wynn, John Ward

MAYORS.

- 1688 John Wrench
 1689 Tho. Cooke
 1690 Jer. Vynne
 1691 Thomas Blofield
 1692 Michael Beverly
 1693 Robert Cooke
 1694 John Ward
 1695 Augustine Briggs
 1696 Nicholas Bickerdike
 1697 Laurence Goodwin
 1698 Sam. Warkhouse
 1699 Tho. Turner
 1700 Edw. Clarke
 1701 John Hall
 1702 John Atkinson
 1703 John Freeman
 1704 Wm. Blyth
 1705 Peter Thacker
 1706 Wm. Cooke
 1707 Peter Seaman,
 1708 Thomas Havers
 1709 Matthew Nall
 1710 Rob. Bene
 1711 Wm. Cockman
 1712 John Goose
 1713 Nicholas Helwys
 1714 John Norman
 1715 Peter Attelfey
 1716 Aug. Metcalfe
 1717 Rich. Lubbock, d.
 Tho. Bubbin, d.
 Anth. Parmenter
 1718 Rich. Mott
 1719 John Hall, 2.
 1720 Edw. Coleburne
 1721 Benj. Nuthall

SHERIFFS.

- Thomas Postle, John Atkinson
 John Yallop, John Drake
 John Awbry, Thomas Turner
 John Freeman, Roger Salter
 Gamaliel Sugden, Peter Thacker
 Edward Clarke, John Hall
 Christopher Stallon, Robert Bene
 Samuel Moulton, Richard Pitcher
 William Blyth, Christopher Gibbs
 John Cooke, Augustine Metcalfe
 George Gynne, William Cooke
 Peter Seaman, Thomas Palgrave
 John Covell, Thomas Dunch
 Mathew Nall, Thomas Havers
 Nicholas Helwys, John Goose
 Edw. Bayspoole, Wm. Cockman
 John Riseborow, Ben. Austin
 William Brereton, John Norman
 Peter Attelfey, Anth. Parmenter
 Rob. Chickering, Ja. Daniel
 Tho. Monfey, Wm. Rogers
 Geo. Vertue, Tho. Bubbin
 Hen. Shardelowe, Geo. Gobbet
 Anthony Ransome, Rich. Manby
 Jos. Wasey, Jehof. Postle
 Tho. Vere, Tho. Harwood
 Jos. Burton, Rich. Lubbock
 Jacob Robins, Sam. Freemoult
 Tho. Newton, Rich. Mott
 Edm. Hunton, Edw. Coleburne
 B. Nuthall, J. Osborn, d. D. Meadows
 Dan. Fromanteel, Rob. Marsh
 John Croshold, John Harvey
 Tho. Harmer, Tim. Balderstone
 1722 Tho.

MAYORS.

1722 Tho. Newton
 1723 Edm. Hunton
 1724 John Croshold
 1725 Daniel Fromanteel
 1726 John Cufance
 1727 John Harvey
 1728 Tho. Harwood
 1729 John Black
 1730 John Pell
 1731 Rob. Marsh
 1732 Francis Arnam
 1733 Jerem. Ives
 1734 Philip Meadows
 1735 Tho. Vere
 1736 Tim. Balderstone
 1737 John Spurrell
 1738 Rob. Harvey
 1739 Wm. Clarke
 1740 John Nuthall
 1741 Edw. King
 1742 Wm. Wigget
 1743 James Nafmith
 1744 John Black
 1745 Simeon Waller
 1746 John Wood
 1747 Wm. Crowe
 1748 Tho. Harvey
 1749 Benj. Nuthall, 2.
 1750 John Cufance, 2.
 1751 Tim. Balderstone, 2.
 1752 Tho. Hurnard
 1753 John Prefs
 1754 John Gay
 1755 Pet. Colmbine
 1756 Jer. Ives
 1757 John Goodman

SHERIFFS,

John Pell, Nath. Paul
 F. Arnam, T. Tawell, d. J. Cufance
 John Black, Philip Meadows
 Wm. Clarke, John Langley
 Jerem. Ives, Abra. Yeftis
 S. Morgan, d. W. Pearce, R. Harvey
 John Prefs, John Spurrell
 Tho. Maltby, Edw. King
 S. Ekins, d. J. Nuthall, S. Lillington
 Rob. Blyford, Joseph Brittan
 J. Browne, Bartho. Balderstone
 John Fromow, John Simpson
 Rob. Stileman, James Nafmith
 Rich. Humfrey, Wm. Wigget
 Tho. Johnson, Simeon Waller
 Charles Maltby, Nathan. Roe
 James Barnham, John Black
 Abra. Larwood, Hen. Spark Patterfon
 Charles Lay, d. T. Harvey, J. Wood
 John Calvert, Wm. Crowe
 Wm. Greenaway, Tho. Wigg
 Tho. Ward, Rob. Rogers
 Benj. Lewis, Edm. Hooke
 Joseph Hamont, sen. James Smith
 John Gay, Jos. Hamont, jun.
 Charles Wace, Philip Stannard
 John Dyball, Jerem. Ives
 Wm. Woolbright, Tho. Hurnard
 John Smith, John Cooper
 John Goodman, Peter Colombine
 J. Tompfon, Sam. Harvey
 N. Tompfon, J. Fromow, d. P. Fromow
 Charles Weston, Haac Lillington
 Ifaac Houghton, J. Simpson
 Ralph Smyth, John Scott
 Wm. Lovick, Tho. Churchman Kt.
 1758 Rob.

MAYORS.

1758 Rob. Rogers
 1759 Nock. Tompson
 1760 Barth. Harwood
 1761 Tho. Churchman, Knt.
 1762 Jarmy Harcourt
 1763 Ben. Hancock
 1764 John Derfley,
 1765 James Poole
 1766 John Patterfon
 1767 Tho. Starling

SHERIFFS.

Barth. Harwood, Dan. Ganning
 Mark Addey, John Derfley
 Cha. Fearman, Jarmy Harcourt
 John Patterfon, Ben. Hancock
 Wm. Cady, John Day
 J. Alcock, d. J. Poole, Jer. Ives
 R. Bretingham, J. Aldred
 Rob. Barret, Jer. Ives
 John Addey, Rob. Harvey
 Nath. Roe, John Ives

AN EXACT

LIST of the BURGESSES

That have served in

PARLIAMENT for this CITY.

From the earliest Accounts.

N. B. The figures set before the names, denote the year of each king's or queen's reign.

Edward I. 1272.

26. Adam de Toftes, John le Graunt.
27. Robt. de Holveston, Roger de Tudenham.
28. The same.
30. Roger de Tudenham, Robt. de Weston.
31. John le Graunt, John de Morle.
32. The same.
33. Jeff. de Norwich, clerk, Ralph de Burewode.
34. Wm. de Wichingham, Henry Gare.

Edward

* Parliaments, at their first institution, were called together on particular emergencies, and dissolved as soon as the business was dispatched, which occasioned their meeting. The burgesses to serve for this city, are elected by the freemen and freeholders.

Edward II. 1307.

1. John de Morle, John Sparowe.
1. Tho. Butt, Tho. de Hakeford.
2. John de Morle, John Benediscite.
4. John de Morle, John Sparowe.
5. The fame.
6. John de Corpeffy, Thomas Butt.
6. Wm. de Wichingham, John de Ellingham.
7. The fame.
8. Roger de St. Austin, John de la Salle.
8. John Sparowe, Roger Fitz Hugh.
12. John de Morle, Peter de Scothow.
15. John Flynt, Thomas de Byntree.
16. John de Morle, jun. Robert de Hakeford.
19. Wm. de Strumpfawe, Wm. de Wichingham.
20. Wm. Bateman, Wm. Butt.

Edward III. 1327.

1. John de Morle, Thomas Butt.
2. Tho. Butt, Reginald de Gurmuncestre.
2. Richard Arundel, John de Morle.
4. Thomas Butt, John Ymme.
4. Thomas Butt, Wm. de Horsford.
5. Thomas Butt, John de Snyterton.
6. Thomas Butt, Peter de Hakeford.
7. The fame.
8. John de Morle, Peter de Hakeford.
8. Thomas Butt, Peter de Hakeford.
9. John de Berney, Peter de Hakeford.
9. William Butt, Thomas Butt.
11. Tho. de la Rokele, John le Grey.
12. Robert Bendish, Wm. de Wichingham.

12. Tho.

12. Tho. de la Rokele, Edm. Cofyn.
14. Robert de Wyleby, John Fitz John.
15. Richard de Bytering, Robert de Bumpstede.
17. John Ymme, Peter de Hakeford.
17. John Ymme, John de Morle.
20. Robert de Poleye, John de Plumstede.
21. Edm. Cofyn, John de Hakeford.
22. Robert de Poleye, Peter de Hakeford.
24. Richard de Bytering, Robert de Bumpstede.*
26. Roger Hardegray.
27. Richard de Bytering, Robert de Bumpstede.
28. Robert de Bumpstede, Edm. Sturmere.
29. Roger Hardegray, Robert de Bumpstede.
31. Roger Hardegray, Wm. Sky.
33. John de Morle, John le Grant.
34. Roger Hardegray, Richard de Bytering.
36. Robert de Bumpstede, Walter de Bixton.
42. John de Knatehall, Wm. de Blickling.
45. John Latymer.
46. Richard Fishe, Jeffery Seawale.
47. John de Stoke, Will. Gerard.
49. Barth. de Appelyerd, Wm. de Blickling.
50. Robert Poppingeay, Thomas Spynk.

Richard II. 1377.

1. Wm. de Bixton, Peter de Alderford.
2. Walter de Bixton, Henry Lomynour.
3. Walter de Bixton, Thomas Spink.
4. John Latymer, Robert de Bernham.
5. John de Well, Walter de Bixton.

5. John

* The city paid them 7l. 6s. 8d. for their attendance in parliament.

5. John de Well, Wm. Gerrard.
6. Wm. Blickling, Walter de Bixton.
7. Walter de Bixton, Wm. Appleyard, jun.
7. Wm. Gerrard, John Parlet.
8. Wm. Appleyard, Tho. Gerrard.
9. Clement Hereward, Wm. Appleyard.
10. Walter Niche, Walter Bixton.
- Walter de Bixton, Tho. Spink.
11. Wm. Appleyard, Walter de Bixton.
12. Walter de Bixton, John de Multon.
13. Hen. Lomynour, Walter de Bixton.
14. Walter de Bixton, Wm. Everard
14. Wm. Appleyard, Tho. Gerrard
15. Walter de Bixton. Tho. Gerrard
16. Wm. Everard, John de Multon
17. Hen. Lomynour, Wm. Everard.
18. Wm. Appleyard, Hen. Lomynour.
19. Wm. Appleyard, Tho. Gerrard
20. Wm. Appleyard Hen. Lomynour
21. Walter de Bixton, Richard White
22. Hen. Lomynour, Roger de Blickling.

Henry IV. 1399.

1. Hen. Lomynour, Wm. de Blickling
2. Edm. Warner, Wm. de Crakeford.
2. Edm. Warner, Walter de Eton.
3. Wm. Appleyard, Wm. de Crakeford.
5. Wm. Everard, Walter de Eton.
7. Walter de Eton, Rob. Dunston.
10. Robert Dunston, Wm. Ampulford.
13. Thomas Gerrard, Barth. Appleyard.
14. Bart. Appleyard, John Alderford.

B b b

Wm.

14. Wm. Sedeman, John Biskelee.

Henry V. 1413.

1. Robert Brasier, Robert Dunston.

1. Robert Brasier, John Alderford.

2. Wm. Sedeman, Richard Spurdance.

3. John Biskelee, Robert Dunston.

3. Henry Rafman, William Sedeman.

4. John Biskelee, William Appleyard.*

5. John Brasier, Robert Dunston.

7. Walter Eton, John Alderford.

7. Wm. Appleyard, John Biskelee.

8. Robert Baxter, John Dunston.

9. Robert Dunston, Henry Peking.

Henry VI. 1422.

1. Robert Dunston, Richard Moneflee.

2. John Gerrard, Richard Moneflee.

3. Walter Eton, John Gerrard.

4. Simon Cocke, Richard Diverose.

6. Thomas Ingham, John Alderford.

7. 8. Thomas Wetherby, Thomas Ingham.

9. Richard Moneflee, Robert Chappeleyn.

10. John Gerrard, Richard Moneflee.

11. Richard Moneflee, Wm. Ashwell.

12. The same.

13. 14. John Gerrard, Wm. Ashwell.

15. Thomas Wetherby, John Toppys

20. John Gerrard, Gregory Draper.

23. Thomas Ingham, Robert Toppys.

25. John Gerrard, Gregory Draper.

27. Robert Toppys, Ralph Segryme.

Wm:

* First Mayor of Norwich.

- 28. Wm. Ashwell, Wm. Hempstede.
- 29. Wm. Ashwell, John Damme.
- 31. Wm. Barley, John Jenny.†
- 33. Wm. Ashwell, John Drolle.
- 38. Richard Browne, John Chyttock.
- 38. Edward Cutler, John Burton.

Edward IV. 1461.

- 1. Robert Toppys, Edward Cutler.
- 2. Thomas Elys, William Skippewith.
- 7. Henry Spelman, Richard Hofte.
- 12. John Aubrey, Thomas Bokenham.
- 17. John Jenney, Henry Wilton.

Richard III. 1483.

- 1. Robert Thorp, John Marleburgh.

Henry VII. 1485.

- 1. John Paston, Philip Curzon.
- 4. Robert Thorp, Thomas Caus.
- 4. Thomas Jenny, Robert Thorp
- 7. John Pyncheamore, Philip Curzon.
- 11. Stephen Bryan, Robert Thorp.
- 12. James Hobart, Thomas Caus.
- 12. Robert Thorp, Robert Burgh.‡
- 19. Robert Burgh, John Rightwise.§

Henry VIII. 1509.

- 2. John Clerk, Robert Harrydance.
- 6. John Pyncheamore, Philip Curzon.

B b b 2

Edward

† They remitted to the city their wages.

‡ The city allowed them 4s. a day for their wages, during their attendance in parliament, and they were paid for sixty days: but Burgh abated 10s. and Thorp 30s.

§ They received 2s. a day each, for sixty-five days attendance.

33. William Rogers, Augustine Steward.||

Edward VI. 1547.

6. Thomas Marham, Alexander Mather.

6. The same.

Mary, 1553.

1. Thomas Gawdy, Richard Catlyn.

1. Henry Ward, John Ball.

2. John Corbet, Alexander Mather.

3. John Aldrich, Thomas Gray.*

4. Thomas Gawdy, Thomas Sotherton.

Elizabeth, 1558.

1. Edward Flowerdew, John Aldrich.†

5. Robert Mitchels, Thomas Parker.

13. John Blenerhasset, Robert Suckling.

14. John Aldrich, Thomas Beaumont.

27. Christopher Layer, Simon Bowde.

28. Robert Suckling, Thomas Layer.

31. Francis Rugge, Thomas Gleane.

35. Robert Houghton, Robert Yarrum.

39. Thomas Sotherton, Christopher Layer.

43. Alexander Thurston, John Pettus.

James I. 1603.

1. Sir Henry Hobart, Knt. John Pettus.

12. Sir Thomas Hyrne, Knt. Rice Gwynne.

18. Sir Richard Rosse, Knt. William Denny.

21. Sir Thomas Hyrne, Knt. William Denny.

Charles

|| The names of the burgeses returned for the parliaments held in the 1st, 14th, 21st, 28th, and 31st years of this king, are not to be found.

* They received 4s. a day, for seventy-nine days attendance.

† The city paid them 36l. for sixty-four days attendance.

Charles I. 1625.

1. Sir Thomas Hyrne, Knt, William Denny.
1. John Suckling, Thomas Hyrne, Knts.
3. Peter Gleane, Knt. Robert Debney.
15. Richard Harman, Richard Catlyn.†

Charles II. 1649.

7. Bernard Church, John Hobart.§
9. John Hobart, William Barnham.||
11. William Barnham, Thomas Rant.*
12. Christopher Jay, Francis Corey.
28. William Paston, Augustine Briggs.
29. The same.
30. The same.
32. The same.

James II. 1685.

1. Robert Paston, Sir Nevil Catlyn, Knt.
4. Sir Nevil Catlyn, Robert Davy.
Thomas Blofield, Sir Nevil Catlyn.†

William III. 1689.

1. Thomas Blofield, Hugh Bokenham.
5. John Ward, in room of H. Bokenham, died.
6. Francis Gardiner, Thomas Blofield.
9. Robert Davy, Thomas Blofield.
11. The same.
12. Edward Clarke, Robert Davy.

Anne,

† Members of the Long Parliament.

§ Members during the usurpation.

|| Ditto.

* Members at the Restoration.

† Elected members for the convention.

Anne, 1702.

1702. Robert Davy, Thomas Blofield.
 1703. Thomas Palgrave, on Davy's death.
 1704. Waller Bacon, John Chambers.†
 1707. Thomas Blofield, Thomas Palgrave.
 1710. Robert Bene, Richard Berney.
 1713. The fame.

George I. 1714.

1714. Waller Bacon, Robert Britiffe.
 1722. The fame.

George II. 1727.

1727. Waller Bacon, Robert Britiffe.
 1734. Horatio Walpole, Waller Bacon, died,
 Thomas Vere.
 1741. Horatio Walpole, Thomas Vere.
 1747. Horatio Walpole, Lord Hobart.
 1754. The fame.
 1756. Harbord Harbord, in room of Ld. Hobart
 Edward Bacon, in room of H. Walpole,
 made a peer.

George III. 1760.

1761. Harbord Harbord, Edward Bacon. The
 present members.

1768. *fr. Harbord Harbord Bar. Edward Bacon Esq.*

† A double return; Waller Bacon, John Chambers, Thomas Blofield, and Thomas Palgrave, the two former admitted as sitting members by the house.

1774. *fr. Harbord Harbord Bar. Edward Bacon Esq.*

End of PART I.

1780. *fr. Harbord Harbord Bar. Edward Bacon Esq.*



Anne, 1702.

1702. Robert Davy, Thomas Blofield.
 1703. Thomas Palgrave, on Davy's death.
 1704. Waller Bacon, John Chambers.†
 1707. Thomas Blofield, Thomas Palgrave.
 1710. Robert Bene, Richard Berney.
 1713. The fame.

George I. 1714.

1714. Waller Bacon, Robert Britiffe.
 1722. The fame.

George II. 1727.

1727. Waller Bacon, Robert Britiffe.
 1734. Horatio Walpole, Waller Bacon, died,
 Thomas Vere.
 1741. Horatio Walpole, Thomas Vere.
 1747. Horatio Walpole, Lord Hobart.
 1754. The fame.
 1756. Harbord Harbord, in room of Ld. Hobart
 Edward Bacon, in room of H. Walpole,
 made a peer.

George III. 1760.

1761. Harbord Harbord, Edward Bacon. The
 present members.

1768. *Sr. Harbord Harbord Bar. Edward Bacon Esq.*
 † A double return; Waller Bacon, John Chambers, Thomas
 Blofield, and Thomas Palgrave, the two former admitted as sit-
 ting members by the house.

1774. *Sr. Harbord Harbord Bar. Edward Bacon Esq.*
 End of PART I. *(Bacon Esq.)*

1774. *Sr. Harbord Harbord Bar. Edward Bacon Esq.*

The History Of The City and County Of Norwich From The Earliest Accounts
To The Present Time

Bd.: 1

Norwich (1768)

Brit. 291 eh-1/2

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